

# Disability NOW

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winning  
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in disability

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# Thalidomide shock discovery

Parents who fear their young children are affected by thalidomide have had their case strengthened by new research.

The morning sickness drug caused an estimated 8,000 babies worldwide to be born with missing or misshapen limbs in the 1950s, and now some of them are having children with similar impairments.

Animal studies in Australia by Dr William McBride and Dr Peter Huang suggest thalidomide bonds to the DNA (the blueprint for life), and interferes with cell replication.

Their previous research in 1994 suggested the effects could be passed down through the generations but was criticised by other doctors who argued that the parents might have been misdiagnosed.

Glenn Harrison, vice chairman of the Thalidomide Action Group, said his four-year-old daughter Georgina had disabilities

similar to his own. But he said other parents were afraid to go public, fearing that the Thalidomide Trust, which hands out compensation in the UK, could claim the parents were affected by another genetic condition and withdraw the cash. The group said this had happened in Germany.

Mr Harrison said: "The Department of Health should continue the research which they have been denying us for three years. We have the living proof that it could happen and the research to back it up."

Kim Morton, from Belfast, said she and her 11-year-old son were both born with an extra thumb: "I have checked back on my family history and there is no history of deformity."

Another disabled parent,



Glenn Harrison has similar disabilities to daughter Georgina

Martine White, of Burnley, said her daughter Sarah, seven, had fused fingers. "If it damages DNA then it may also damage

our children."

Dr McBride said: "We have seen children of thalidomide victims whose malformations

are similar to the parent. It can be argued that their parents were not true thalidomide victims, but I doubt it."

Neil Buckland, director of the Trust, denied that parents were in danger of losing compensation. "It is a matter for the trustees' discretion whether they consider a person to be affected and they have upheld their view in every case."

The Department of Health said there had been insufficient evidence to support the second-generation theory.

## Tree plea

Gary, the tree protestor, who was chained into his wheelchair at Manchester Airport, is urgently appealing for new sticks as his present wooden pair are broken.



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# New minister on the job

Andrew Smith MP has been given overall responsibility for disabled people in the new Blair Government.

DN understands Tory defector Alan Howarth, who has a disabled child, will work under him on day-to-day issues.

In a move which will disappoint many, Mr Smith's job has been downgraded from the Cabinet level status it enjoyed under Tom Clarke and tacked onto the Minister for Employment's brief. Mr Clarke has been demoted to Minister at the Department of National Heritage.

Campaigners are already worried about the amount of time Mr Smith will have to devote to disability.

As Minister for Employment, his chief responsibility will be to oversee the Government's massive welfare to work programme for 250,000 young people.

Anne Rae, chairperson of the British Council of Disabled People, feared that the job had been allocated as "an afterthought".

"As a minority group who had



Andrew Smith MP

a minister for disabled people for so many years, the fact that this was not part of the first round of appointments made us feel that perhaps disability issues had been forgotten. I think Blair is not the slightest bit interested in disabled people."

Neil Betteridge, head of project campaigns at the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation, said: "Our members see it as a demotion of the role, and while it is good that disability can feed into other departments, it appears that disabled peoples' rights have been put down quite low on the agenda."

A close ally of Tony Blair, Mr Smith has so far enjoyed a Rolls Royce rise through the ranks. His last job in Opposition was Shadow Transport Secretary.

Mr Smith will come under pressure to spell out Labour's plans, particularly towards the Disability Discrimination Act. The chief question will be whether he intends to amend the Act to make it more wide-ranging and enforceable, or whether the new Government will bin the Tories' attempt at civil rights and start again.



# School ban boy loses his fight

A couple have lost their battle to send their learning disabled son to a mainstream school.

Peter and Wendy Crane took Lancashire County Council to the High Court in May after Tarleton High School refused to accept Nike Crane, 14, (right) from Preston.

Last September his parents were told he would have to attend the Elms special school in Fulwood – 17 miles away.

The Cranes had hoped that winning would end the widespread practice of comprehensive schools selecting pupils on the basis of ability.

Justice Popplewell ruled parental choice should be over-riden on grounds that the comprehensive was "unsuitable" for Niki, that the education of other children could be disrupted, and that it could prove too expensive.



Mrs Crane said: "It is not tolerated on the basis of race or sex, but the teaching profession think they

have the right to discriminate against disabled pupils.

"Comprehensive schools have a moral and legal obligation to accept disabled pupils unless there is evidence to prove this should not happen."

Niki will be taught at home while his family try to raise funds to send him to a private school.

Micheline Mason, a co-ordinator at the Alliance for Inclusive Education, said: "The law protects education authorities and not children's rights. This case illustrates that the law has to be changed."

## Banking on a long life

The family of 96-year-old Marjorie Ross, who was blind, deaf and physically disabled, claims she was sold a personal equity plan by Barclays Bank just eight months before she died.

Son-in-law Bob Rennison, 78, from Cambridge, is hoping to start a national campaign to ensure elderly and disabled people are protected.

"I think banks should have an extra duty of care in these sorts

of cases and not be allowed to abuse the trust that people put in them," he said.

A Barclays spokeswoman said it had suggested Mr Rennison should raise the matter with the Investment Ombudsman. "We understand that he has not done this."

Barclays has paid about £5,000 in compensation and offered a further £2,500 but Mr Rennison said this was not enough.



New dawn: Disabled people including (left-right) Ann Mears-Rees, Terry Hutt and John Cadman, gathered outside London's Royal Festival Hall on 2 May to congratulate Tony Blair on his victory. Some handcuffed themselves to railings in the hope of being symbolically cut free, but Mr Blair was too busy celebrating to come out. BRENT MOORE

## Access bungle

Disabled people in London are missing out on adapted accommodation because it is being occupied by their able-bodied neighbours.

Camden Council has 640 homes adapted for disabled people, yet many of these are occupied by non-disabled residents because the council has not kept records of its adapted houses and who lives in them.

Social services spokesperson, Tracey English, admitted there had been a bungle.

She said: "The main reason why these properties are currently occupied by able-bodied

people is because they have been carers or relatives of disabled people who have either moved out or died.

"We've now put together a database which should help us to keep a better track of accessible flats."

Forty wheelchair users applied for housing in the financial year 1995/6 and 126 wheelchair users were already on the list for accessible accommodation. But only 27 of them were housed.

The council has agreed to offer £600 to encourage each current resident to move to another council home.

## Equality lottery

The National Lottery Charities Board – which gives money to disability groups – has been accused of discriminating against disabled job applicants who were told they could not receive application forms on tape or in braille, or reply in these formats.

One blind woman, Medina Hall, of Merseyside, said she was told she could not have a form enlarged and would have to fill it in in her own writing.

Nick Clarke, from Huddersfield, who is blind, said he was told the application form was not available on tape.

The board advertised 20 posts for grants officers in May.

A board spokeswoman said a tape had not been available at first and applicants were wrongly told they could not receive or send applications in that format. She said the board could not afford to produce braille forms but would accept applications in any format.

The Disability Discrimination Act requires organisations with more than 20 employees to make reasonable adjustments during recruitment.

David Bundy, from Dewsbury, who was initially refused a tape said: "People less clear about their rights under the act would have been put off."

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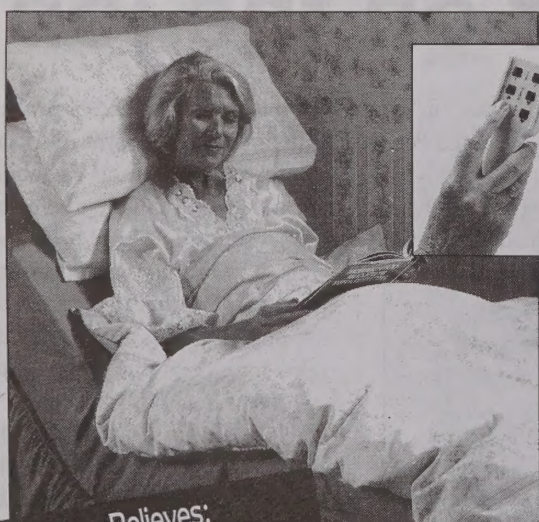
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## Stop press

### Superman shock

Christopher Reeve, who became totally paralysed in a riding accident two years ago, has astounded doctors by recovering some feeling in his hands, arms and back.

Reeve uses a wheelchair and a respirator. He was told after the accident he would have no further feeling.

### Focus on rights

Disabled people are to have an Amnesty International-style organisation to monitor, investigate and publicise human rights abuses against them.

Human rights task forces have been set up throughout the world by Disabled People's International (DPI). It will create a central database to catalogue abuse.

Rachel Hurst, chair of DPI European Region, said: "Initially our efforts will simply be to get the information and if we can then set up the same kinds of campaigns which have happened through Amnesty, then that would be good."

"Quite a lot of people are being tortured and incarcerated on the grounds of impairment."

### Sport threatened

Birmingham's hopes of hosting the 1998 World Disabled Athletics Championships could be dashed because of a lack of cash.

Birmingham City Council needs up to £2.5 million to fund the event and plans to apply to the National Lottery Board. But until a grant is agreed the contract for the championships cannot be signed.

Director of corporate sponsorship for the British Paralympic Association (BPA), Barry Schofield, said: "We are getting to the stage where the awareness of disability sport is so much greater in this country that we should be thinking about staging a first class championships, not scraping together the money."

### Roosevelt ruckus

Protesters in the USA have won their battle to have a statue of Franklin Roosevelt in a wheelchair.

Controversy arose after an FDR memorial was unveiled in Washington in May which failed to portray the former President's paralysis from polio.

Disabled people claimed a new statue would be inspirational, but those against the idea said Roosevelt hid his disability and would not have wanted such a statue.

However, President Clinton announced that the new statue would be built at the Tidal Basin memorial.



On the ball: One-armed footballer, 15-year-old Chris Perrior, of Beechdale, Walsall, signs his schoolboy forms to join second division Walsall, watched by manager Chris Nicholl.

NEWS TEAM

## GPs close their eyes to ME

Only 33 per cent of GPs offer patients any advice on the symptoms of ME (chronic fatigue syndrome), a survey of 6,000 people with ME has

revealed. Action for ME found 96 per cent of GPs accepted the condition existed but that many of them did not give patients any help.

## Study finds disability picture is out of focus

Disabled people are fed up with the way they are portrayed on television and radio, a new BBC study has shown.

*Disability and Broadcasting: A view from the margins* was commissioned by the BBC's Broadcast Equality Unit, and

384 people were interviewed.

The study found many were unhappy with the representation of disability in mainstream factual programmes. People said that high profile personalities were often used to speak on behalf of disabled people, which

## Caring family loses home

A Bristol carer has had his home reposessed and could be declared bankrupt after a council decision forced him out of his job and into a council house.

Steve Dadds' 25-year-old daughter Victoria had been caring for her mother, Corinne, 43, who has multiple sclerosis.

Victoria was renting a flat adjoining the family house, but the former Kingswood Council would not pay her £95-a-week housing benefit, because it said she did not have sufficient independence and the rent arrangement was not commercial.

The case eventually went to the High Court which instructed the new council, South Gloucestershire, to make a new decision. It agreed to pay benefit – income support, carer's allowance and council tax relief.

But Mr Dadds, 44, said by this time his wife's health had deteriorated from stress, which meant his daughter could not care for her alone. He had to give up his job to replace her and could not



Victoria, Liam, Steve and Corinne Dadds

BRISTOL EVENING POST

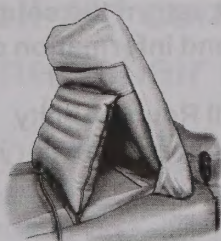
keep up mortgage repayments.

In March, Mr and Mrs Dadds and their two sons were allocated a £63-a-week three-bedroom council house. Victoria was also rehoused.

Mr Dadds said the situation was crazy. "I am a burden on the state. If the council had paid housing benefit to Victoria, so much money would have been saved. I will try and sue the council to stop others experiencing the same thing."

A South Gloucestershire Council spokesman said: "We have followed the guidance of the court."

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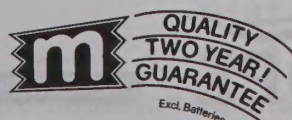
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Get all the facts. Produced by the Mobility Matters Network of mobility specialists "The In's and Out's of buying a mobility vehicle" is available now, free of charge. All you have to do is simply call our 24 Hour booklet Request Line on 0990 134 130 or write to Mobility Matters, Dept DN6/97 Freepost NH0170, Kettering NN14 6YA. A booklet will be sent to you within 14 days from one of the Mobility Matters local Distributors.



# New ministers take seats

David Blunkett made history as the first blind Cabinet Minister when he took his seat as Education and Employment Secretary.



David Blunkett

He said he would approach the job as would any other incoming Secretary of State but

would be accompanied by his guide dog Lucy.

He will use mainly taped submissions, rather than braille, and a reading unit has been set up to produce the audio tapes.

Mr Blunkett will rely on his private office and political adviser to filter material.

Harriet Harman, the Secretary of State for Social Security, will also be responsible for



Harriet Harman

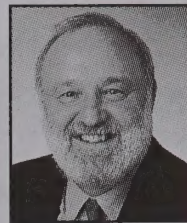
poverty and tackle the growing benefit bill by helping get people into work."

Her deputy is Frank Field –

women.

She said: "I look forward to working with my team to modernise the welfare state to tackle

Minister of State for Social Security and Welfare Reform – whose remit includes an overview of disability benefits.



Frank Dobson is taking charge of the Health Department as Secretary of State.

## Gulf war tests vow

The Labour Government has pledged to invest "substantial" new resources into investigating Gulf War syndrome.

The Ministry of Defence announced a new plan in May to discover what lies behind the illness and disabilities of thousands of British and American servicemen, examining possible side-effects caused by vaccinations given to troops.



Voting veto: Scope executive council member Angela Drane finds a polling office in Redditch inaccessible during the charity's nationwide *Polls Apart* survey. Scope's first study in 1992 found 88 per cent of stations were out of bounds and first results from this year's survey show many constituencies had still not got their acts together. Campaigns officer Jane Enticott said: "The Home Office say polling stations without suitable access should only be used in 'extreme circumstances' but these circumstances remain commonplace."

# Blair keeps quiet on Commission

Prime Minister Tony Blair promised, but did not introduce, a Social Security Bill in the Queen's Speech in May, which would simplify benefit decision-making and appeals process and introduce new National Insurance measures.

There was no mention of the trailed Human Rights Commission which could incorporate race, gender and disability rights in one body.

The Royal Commission on long-term care funding was also omitted, but its absence was not seen as a sign that it is being shelved.

Mr Blair did, however announce the National Health Service (Private Finance) Bill. This will clarify the power of NHS Trusts to enter into con-

tracts with the private sector to build hospitals.

Health Secretary Frank Dobson said the Government would examine the balance of resources devoted to hospital and GP care and set up a new review of London hospitals, sparking fears that this could mean a halt to the transfer of resources from hospital to community care.

Plans for a Bill to end the NHS internal market and abolish fundholding were shelved.

Other relevant Bills announced were:

- Local Authority (Capital Receipts) Bill. Aimed at allowing local authorities to use receipts from the sale of council houses for building new homes and renovating old ones.

- European Convention on Human Rights Bill. This would allow UK citizens to enforce their rights here without having to go to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg.

## All change

Paul Burstow replaces Liz Lynne as the Liberal Democrat spokesperson on Disability.

Both Ms Lynne and Conservative MP Alistair Burt, the former Government's Minister for Disabled People, lost their seats in the General Election.

At the time of going to press, no Conservative spokesperson for disability had been announced.

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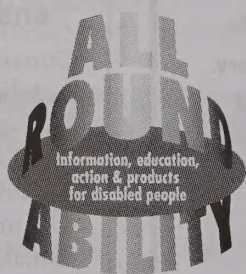
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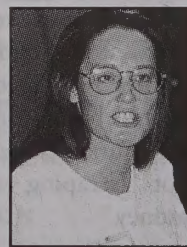
- Disabled people
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- Representatives of local authorities
- Voluntary organisations
- Charities working with disabled people
- Purchasers of equipment for centres
- The media

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## MP first for Anne

Aberdeen South MP Anne Begg has made history as the first wheelchair-using member of the House of Commons.



Ms Begg, 41, an English teacher who has Gauchers disease, won her seat with a majority of 3,300 – a swing of 11.2 per cent from the Conservatives.

She said staff at the House had already pulled all the stops out.

"I've got a wonderful office opposite the Commons library. I know there will be parts I won't be able to get to, but I'm used to that – I'm sure I will find ways round it."

Ms Begg said she had already been receiving calls from disabled people around the country.

"I can't take up the issues from outside my constituency but I can try and offer advice."



# Winners who are getting the message across

A student careers information service on the Internet, a police force which has provided aids and training for police officers to communicate with deaf people, and an NHS trust which employs an expert disability services adviser were among nine winners of this year's Getting the Message Across awards.

Organised by the charity, National Information Forum

(NIF), and presented by Martin Knight, IBM's communications and corporate affairs director, the awards highlight imaginative and reproduceable ideas for getting information to disabled people. The winners were: Art-sline for access information in London; DIAL Barnsley for a handbook that enables people with learning disabilities to be more independent; Warrington

Disability Information Services for its annual Awareness Day; Age Concern East Sussex for its newspaper *Active Age*; Cando, for careers information; the Greater Manchester Police; the Warrington Community Care (NHS) Trust; Susan Cain, University of Sunderland, for multi-format guides for students with disabilities; and Tripscope, for its travel advice service.

Sir David Putnam, film producer and now an international figure in arts and communications, gave the Duncan Guthrie Memorial Lecture.

He pinpointed a world-wide "feel uneasy" factor, which he believed came from "capricious" market forces and a global economy over which people feel they have no control.

He talked of the impact an

individual's vision can have, and how market forces can be harnessed – for example, the securing of improved disability arts access as a result of including an access requirement in Lottery applications.

His own vision was for quality education to empower ordinary people all over the world.

Full speech, tel: 0171-404 3846

## Hong Kong keeps calm

Fears for the future of disabled people in Hong Kong once the territory is handed over to China in July may be unfounded, say local disability groups.

The colony will be run as the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and Philip Yuen, secretary of the Joint Council for the Physically and Mentally Disabled, is reassured that China intends to leave the running of issues relating to disability to the regional government.

But Chong Chan Yau, president of the Hong Kong Blind Union, warned that areas such as employment would continue to be neglected.

He said fifty per cent of disabled people were out of work. "We do not believe that after the hand-over there will be any change in terms of China wanting to impose a policy," he said.

"If there are worries, they are whether the new Government is willing and able to give priority to disability issues, especially in the first few years of hand-over when it has to establish itself."

## Jobs go at centre

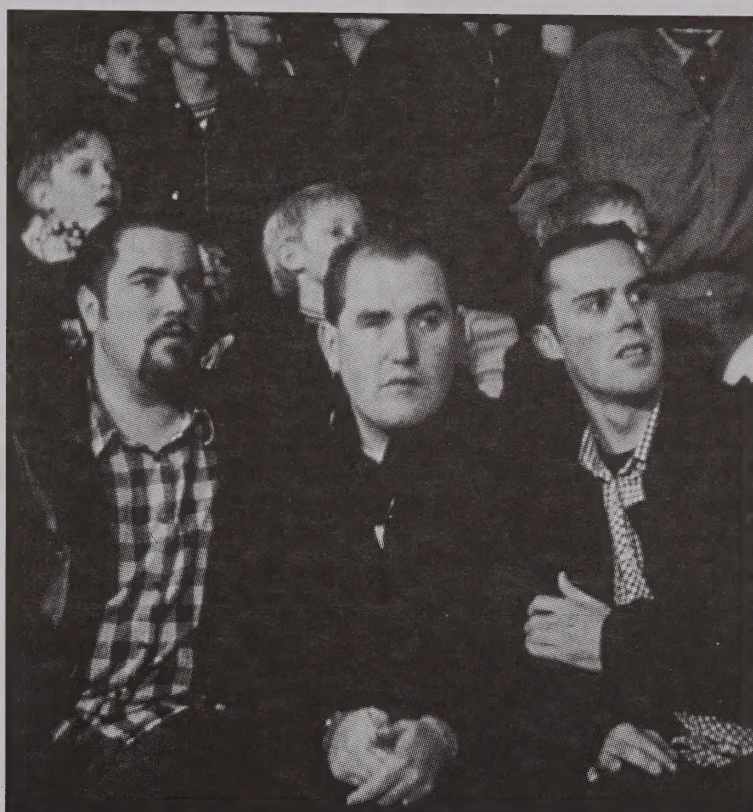
Scope's telemarketing centre in Nottingham will close in July with a loss of 130 jobs.

The closure is part of a programme of restructuring aimed at making the charity's fundraising efforts more effective.

The centre oversees house-to-house collections, raffles and data sales throughout the UK, but since 1992 there has been a decline in income.

• Scope's logo and collecting boxes could soon be appearing in the Queen Vic pub in *Eastenders* as the charity becomes the first to adopt a systematic approach to product placement.

Scope has teamed up with media promotions agency, New Media Group, to use the Scope name as props on television programmes.



The real thing: Blind football fan Matt Datson, from London, (centre) is the star of a new Coca Cola television advertisement *Eat Football, Sleep Football, Drink Coca Cola*. The advert was first shown in March and tells the story of the West Ham fan who enjoys the game thanks to a running commentary from his brother and friend. The commentary is one in a series of six new advertisements in a multi-million pound campaign that features real football fans.

COCA COLA

## Hundreds lose physiotherapy

Up to 600 children in Leicestershire have lost physiotherapy because their local health trust does not have enough therapists.

Many of the children have education statements saying they should receive the treatment but Fosse Health NHS Trust, which provides the therapy, said in April that it would only provide therapy for children aged six and under, unless they were in priority need.

It said therapy had become unsafe due to a lack of supervising physiotherapists and staff had been threatening to leave because of heavy workloads.

The trust has now developed a two-year action plan to restore the service and is trying to recruit more therapists.

Susan Mifsud from Leicester, said her son Mark, seven, was affected. "It is devastating. If we

don't keep up the exercises, he could end up needing surgery."

Steve Welton, head teacher at Birkett House Special School in Wigston, blamed the trust's inability to recruit enough staff and the local health authority's failure to buy enough therapy from it over the years. "All the rhetoric was that the artificial market place would be responsive to demand."

A spokesperson for Leicestershire Health Authority said it had not known there was a problem until last November.

A spokeswoman for the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy said it was a national problem: while demand had increased, there was a severe shortage of physiotherapists.

"The NHS is becoming an increasingly unattractive place – pay and conditions do not help."

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DN/697





Loud and proud: Talk Radio presenter James Whale (left), and disabled guests Mik Scarlet and Heather Mills, line up at the launch of Disability '97 – a partnership between Talk Radio and Scope.

On the first day, disabled people's rights received a boost when a national telephone poll asked listeners: "Would you pay an extra 1p on tax to give disabled people more opportunities and choice?" More than 3,000 people called in and 72 per cent said they would. Scope's chief executive, Richard Brewster, said politicians should "sit up and take notice of the poll". The venture runs until the end of the year and the next programme is on 10 June, 12-2pm. See review on page 22.

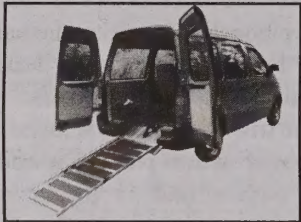
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# Mental health care in tatters

A new report claims mental health services are in total crisis.

The Royal College of Psychiatrists launched *A Manifesto for Mental Health* in April which said services in parts of the UK, particularly large cities, were on the verge of collapse.

Problems cited included huge pressure on beds, low staff morale and inadequate use of recognised therapies and treatments.

The college has put together a nine-point action plan which includes ensuring that mental illness receives the same priority in the NHS as physical illness, that mental health promotion work is funded properly and

that strategies are put in place to prevent discrimination against former psychiatric patients.

The mental health charity Mind is supporting the college's call for more resources for mental health but said the manifesto missed key priorities such as the need to invest in community-based services.

Director Judi Clements said: "We desperately need 24-hour crisis services which are known to reduce hospital admissions and save people slipping into crisis. I would also like to see more recognition given to service users' views of what is missing and what actually works."

## Wheelchair worries

Wheelchair manufacturers say they will not be held responsible if wheelchair users are put at risk by being carried in vehicles.

The Joint Committee on Mobility for Disabled People (JCMD) has revealed that wheelchairs are increasingly being used as vehicle seats in minibuses.

Wheelchair manufacturer, Sunrise Mobility, recently issued a statement saying it would not be held liable if its products were used by people when travelling. Some Sunrise wheelchairs now carry labels

indicating they have been tested.

The JCMD found many designs did provide sufficient support but only if the wheelchair was properly tied down and the occupant used a restraint system. Manufacturers do not always provide these.

JCMD spokesperson, Morigue Cornwell, said: "We don't want transportation companies saying to people 'Your chair has not got a safety mark on it so we're not going to take it.' If companies go down that road, it will be the disabled person who will suffer."

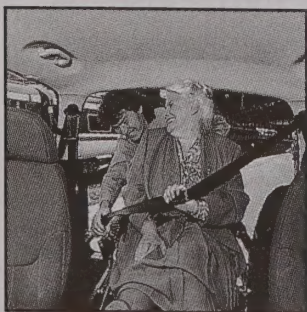
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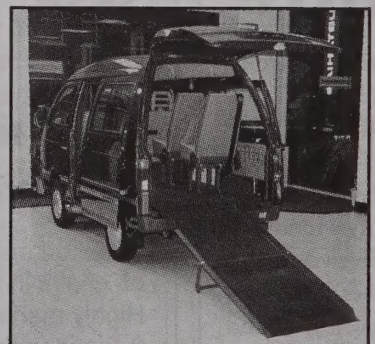
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## In brief

### College on line

American students have helped put the Centre for Accessible Environments on the global superhighway.

Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) joined up with the charity to design a web site which includes a library, architectural advisory service and information about the Disability Discrimination Act.

Jennie Hawks, the institute's London centre coordinator, said it was always looking for new projects.

Find the site on <http://www.cae.org.uk>. WPI, tel: 0171-274 9128.

### Sharing cares

A new book produced by the organisation Shared Care UK aims to tackle the problem of people with autism being left at the bottom of the pile when it comes to respite care.

*New Horizons* provides information on family-based short breaks.

Tel: 0117-928 9814

### Training takes off

More disabled people will become qualified trainers if a pilot scheme takes off.

The Stonebow Trainer Training programme has been modified to give disabled people a chance to take part, and the first five have now qualified to train in the hospitality sector.

One of the organisers, Maundy Todd, said: "There is a dearth of qualified trainers who are disabled and we hope this project will spearhead others."

### A good practice

The Employers' Forum on Disability has launched a guide, *Open For Business* to give owners of commercial buildings details on making premises accessible. It costs £10, tel: 0171-403 3020.

### Euro coins snub

Blind people in Britain have slammed designs for the new European coins, saying they are too small, too light and too similar in size and shape.

Members of organisations of blind people including the Royal National Institute for the Blind and the National Federation of the Blind (NFB) were given less than a week to comment on the draft coins and have rejected the designs. The NFB is urging people to write to their MEP over the issue.

### Correction

From the April issue of *DN*: Contrary to the RICA report, Bison Bede does make stairlifts with a perch seat.

# First DDA case on way

A charity boss is trying to use the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) to force the Alliance and Leicester to issue windfall shares to three people with learning disabilities.

Three of the residents of a home run by the Restormel Mentally Handicapped charity in Cornwall have accounts with the building society (which has just converted to a bank) in the name of their house manager.

Under the rules of the conversion, only the first named person on an account can get shares and there is only one allocation regardless of the number of accounts held.

The basic allocation of shares

was worth an average £1,334 when the society was floated in April.

Charity chairman Peter Browning is to challenge the society under the DDA and common law, and has issued a summons.

"The three residents qualified in every other respect."

The Building Societies (Distribution) Bill was passed in April and forces converting societies to include disabled people. However, it does not apply to societies which announced their conversions before it was passed.

A society spokesman said the matter was with its legal department: "We don't believe that it discriminates against dis-

abled people under the DDA. We are working hard to create an acceptable solution."

Meanwhile, 72-year-old Patricia Parsons from London, who is blind, has threatened to report NatWest Bank to the banking Ombudsman.

She said staff at the Spring Street branch in Paddington refused to serve her between 11am and 3pm, unless she gave notice.

The Royal National Institute for the Blind, which has taken up her case, believes the bank has breached the DDA.

Mrs Parsons is using the bank's complaint procedure. A spokesman said it hoped to learn from the incident.



**Visionary:** Peterborough Estate Agent Paul Dawson (*right*) is presented with the Unsung Hero award by BBC disability correspondent Peter White.

Jephson Housing Association, Nottingham Playhouse and Dudley Health Authority were rewarded for providing accessible information at the Royal National Institute for the Blind's See It Right awards.

Mr Dawson helped blind couple Kate and Peter Osborne buy a new house. Mrs Osborne said: "We didn't move house, but in some ways that makes this all the better because we never felt under pressure to pick a house Paul had selected."

French wine producer Michel Chapoutier won an award for innovation, for producing braille wine labels.

## Insurance firms are playing fair

Insurance companies are getting their act together and offering a fairer deal to disabled drivers.

The independent research unit RICA asked 62 companies for their charges on a comprehensive insurance policy for two typical motorists, and to provide details of cover for disabled drivers.

The companies were asked whether they would charge a range of disabled people the same premiums as able-bodied drivers: someone with arthritis, a driver who had had a stroke, a paraplegic person, someone with multiple sclerosis, a visually impaired driver and someone who was profoundly deaf.

It found that only six firms would refuse cover for one or more of these disabled people, compared to 22 companies in the first survey in 1994.

In that survey, 13 companies said they would charge increased premiums to some people. This time, six firms said they would.

Chartwell Insurance, Disabled Insurance Services, Fish Insurance, Norwich Union, and En Route Insurance all came out well in the survey.

• RICA is continuing its research into car insurance, tel: 0171-830-7508.

*This series of reports was made possible by Glaxo Wellcome plc.*

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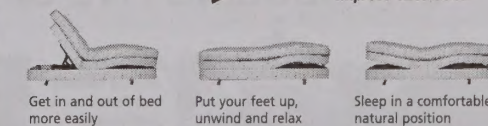
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## Blood test hope for strokes

A new type of blood test can help detect the chances of having a stroke or heart attack up to eight years before the usual warnings appear, an American study claims.

At present diagnosis can come too late as it relies on detecting blocked arteries.

But the new test has sparked controversy because it suggests that hardened or narrowed arteries which can lead to strokes and heart attacks could be the result of inflammation of the blood vessel walls.

Doctors at Emory University in Atlanta began the blood tests eight years ago on 1,000 healthy men to detect a substance known as C reactive protein, which is associated with inflammation.

Those with the highest levels of the protein were found to be twice as likely to have a stroke and three times as likely to have a heart attack.

The study also found that men with higher levels of the protein, who took aspirin, had their chances of a heart attack reduced by 56 per cent. This suggests that it is the drug's anti-inflammatory qualities rather than anti-clotting qualities which help.

Drug companies may now begin to focus more on anti-inflammatory drugs.

Dr Peter Whincup, a lecturer at the Royal Free Hospital

School of Medicine in London said: "It is reasonable to hold up some hope of possibilities for screening but we know already that there are a lot of people who have clinically established vascular diseases still not getting the benefits from aspirin. That has to be our first priority.

"There is very clear evidence that aspirin reduces the risk of both stroke and heart attack, particularly in people at high risk."

## Dementia risk is doubled

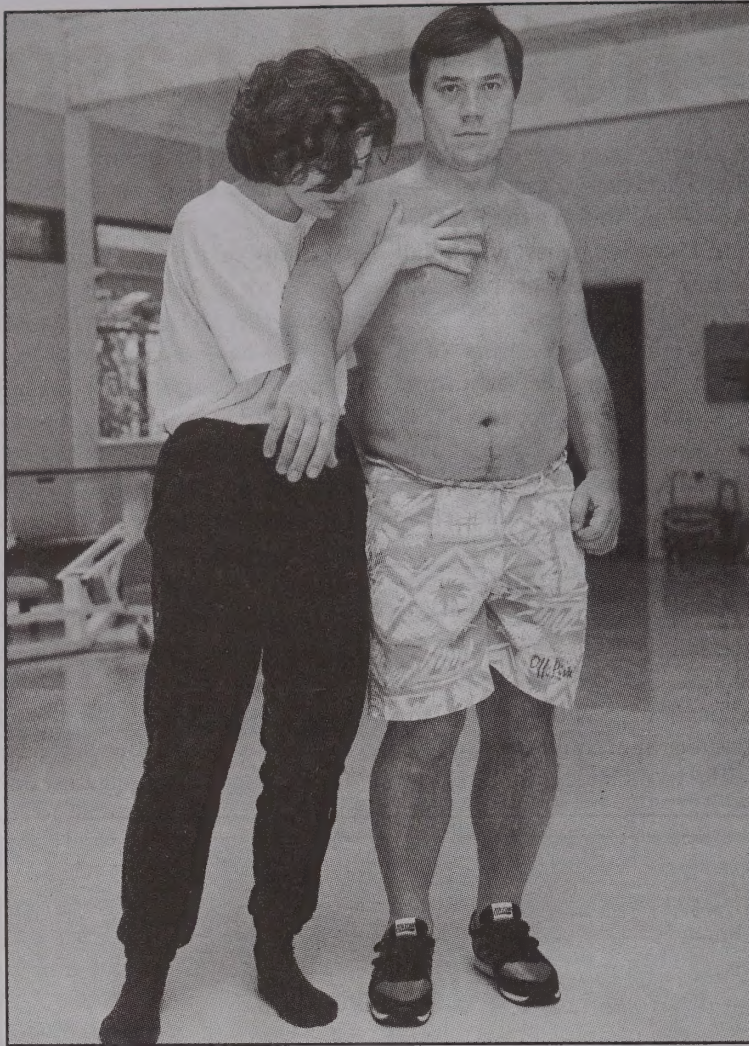
People who smoke are twice as likely to develop Alzheimer's disease as those who have never smoked, a Dutch study suggests.

Researchers at Rotterdam's Erasmus University looked at 6,870 people aged 55 and older. Over two years, 145 of them developed dementia – 104 of whom had Alzheimer's.

People who had given up smoking had a 50 per cent increased chance of developing the condition than those who had never smoked.

The findings contradict earlier studies which had suggested that smoking might protect people from Alzheimer's.

A spokesperson for the Alzheimer's Disease Society said: "We get so much conflicting research on Alzheimer's that it is very difficult to form a view."



Helping hand: A man who has had a stroke receives therapy at Kings College Hospital

THE STROKE ASSOCIATION

In was not advisable to smoke in any case, she said.

## Anorexia discovery

The eating disorder Anorexia Nervosa has been linked to reduced blood-flow in certain areas of the brain by doctors at London's Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children.

A study of 19 children between the ages of eight and 16 found that blood flow was restricted in the temporal lobe, the area of the brain responsible for visual perception of body image and appetite.

Dr Bryan Lask, a consultant psychiatrist at the hospital, said: "This is an exciting discovery but it is only a small piece of a large jigsaw. It suggests that these children have a neurological predisposition in

terms of developing an eating disorder. But there are other factors which play an important role."

He said these would include a child's genetic make-up, personality and the influence of the media and society.

## HRT fear over test

Doctors are calling for further research to discover whether Hormone Replacement Therapy makes breast cancer screening less effective.

Professor Valerie Beral, head of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund's Epidemiology Unit, said there was concern over the high number of cancers detected in the intervals between mammograms (x-rays of breasts taken every three years as part of the national breast screening programme).

She feared small lumps might be missed because the therapy makes breast tissue more dense.

"HRT use is increasing and it is therefore particularly important that research is undertaken as soon as possible to see whether HRT is also resulting in more cancers being missed during screening."

An American study of only seven women suggested this might be the case.

Ms Beral added that current evidence was too uncertain to guide policy, but if HRT did lower detection rates, one answer might be for women to stop using it for a short time before screening.



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## Eye op is a success

Cornea tissue grown in the laboratory is allowing Italian doctors to restore sight to people whose eyes have become damaged.

The team took pieces of tissue from the edge of the cornea – the transparent front of the eye – and grew sheets of tissue to graft onto the affected area within two weeks.

The researchers, led by Dr Michele De Luca, used stem cells taken from an area called the limbus which can multiply into corneal cells.

The first two people to receive the treatment were workers whose corneas had been damaged by chemical burns in industrial accidents. One of the men had been injured 20 years ago and all attempts to help him had failed.

Two years after surgery both men have experienced improvements in sight and comfort.

Researchers expect the process to be widely adopted soon.





# Britain's hidden army

## Growing pains

Jacqui Ratcliffe, 30, became a child carer for both her disabled mother and younger brother when she was 11. She is now on a student placement with Oldham Young Carers Project.

"I did not think of myself as a carer until I was older. It was just something which I had to do. You miss out on a lot of social activities and school. If I had to do shopping I just stayed off school and if I went to school I was worried about my mother being on her own.

"We had no support. Young carers still face many of the same problems."

## Mum's cash headache

Linda Venton, 51, from London, gave up work two years ago to look after her disabled husband, who died last year. She now cares for their son Daniel, 18, who has behavioural problems.

She said it had been a constant battle to get benefits since the death of her husband and the problems look set to continue.

"I can't claim Invalid Care Allowance because I get a widows pension and they say I could work. I would like to go back to work but my son leaves school in July and I don't know where he will go during the day."

Will the new Labour Government end carers' old problems, asks Rod Hermeston

A Labour Government could be good news for the UK's seven million carers who look after a friend or relative.

The party manifesto promised to create a "citizenship pension" for carers who cannot pay into pension schemes and end up on means-tested benefits.

Labour has promised to set up a Royal Commission to look into fair funding of long term care which would also affect carers.

It also promised a review of community care.

Labour MP Malcolm Wicks took the 1996 Carers (Recognition and Services) Act through Parliament which gives carers the right to have their needs assessed.

But care charity Carers

his wife about carers. We will attempt to show this government, as we did the last, the sound economic sense of supporting carers."

### Who cares?

About 79 per cent of carers are over 65 but at least 51,000 are under 18 years of age.

Many face financial problems as Invalid Care Allowance is only £36.60 per week. It cannot be claimed for the first time after the age of 65 and it is also deducted from means-tested benefits such as Income Support.

A 1996 survey estimated that those who give up work to care lose an average of £9,763 annually. Many cannot pay into pension schemes or save as a result.

As part of National Carers Week (9-15 June) CNA will publish the results of a survey into the impact of the Carers Act.

"There have been some great successes but most carers still do not think of themselves as carers, never mind knowing that they have got an act that will help them," said Ms Pitkeathley.

She was also concerned about the impact of the recent Gloucestershire judgement on disabled people and their carers.

"If not having enough money is an excuse for not providing services, and you've got a carer, then you are probably lower down the list of eligibility criteria."



Dominic Tricker with mum Antoinette

INFORMER PUBLICATIONS

## Give us a break

Antoinette Tricker, 46, of Epsom, has been waiting since 1994 for respite care for her son Dominic, eight, who has Down's Syndrome, after it was offered free through Surrey County Council's Family Link system.

She has complained to the local Ombudsman after she refused the alternative of being means tested to get a professional carer.

"It's an unclear system. Anyone can have a Family Link carer and pay nothing – even if they are wealthy – but if the council can't find you a carer, you have to be means tested," she claimed.

A Surrey Council spokesperson said Mrs Tricker had refused free carers. "Means testing allows us to help more people."



CNA boss Jill Pitkeathley

National Association (CNA) is looking for action. On the Carer's Act, for example, Labour must go further than the last Government, by funding it and ensuring provisions are made.

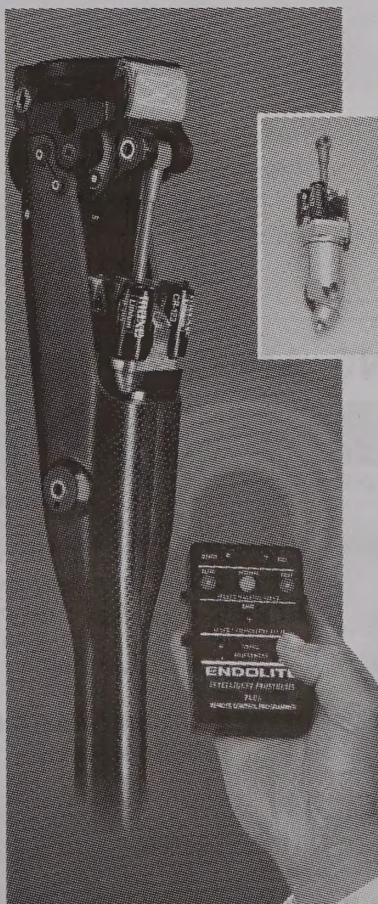
The CNA is also demanding guaranteed respite care, a review of carers' benefits and flexible employment conditions to allow carers to combine work with caring. Chief executive Jill Pitkeathley, said: "We have had personal commitments from both the leader and

## What's on

Carers National Association will be holding National Carers Week from 9 to 15 June when it will launch a national CarersLine.

It will also launch a London Ethnic Carers' Directory, along with a number of leaflets, including *Are you looking after someone at home?* which will be available in Boots stores throughout Carers Week.

CarersLine, tel: (0345) 573369



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ENDOLITE



# Sample the student life

Helen Gregory looks at higher education in the second article of our employment series

At least three per cent of students in higher education have a disability and although figures over previous years are sketchy, the number is definitely on the rise.

Skill – the National Bureau for Students with Disabilities – believes students used to keep quiet about their disability, but are now more confident about asking for building alterations, extra equipment and assistance at universities and colleges.

Assistant director Sophie Corlett says they are less worried about discrimination, although she admits it still exists.

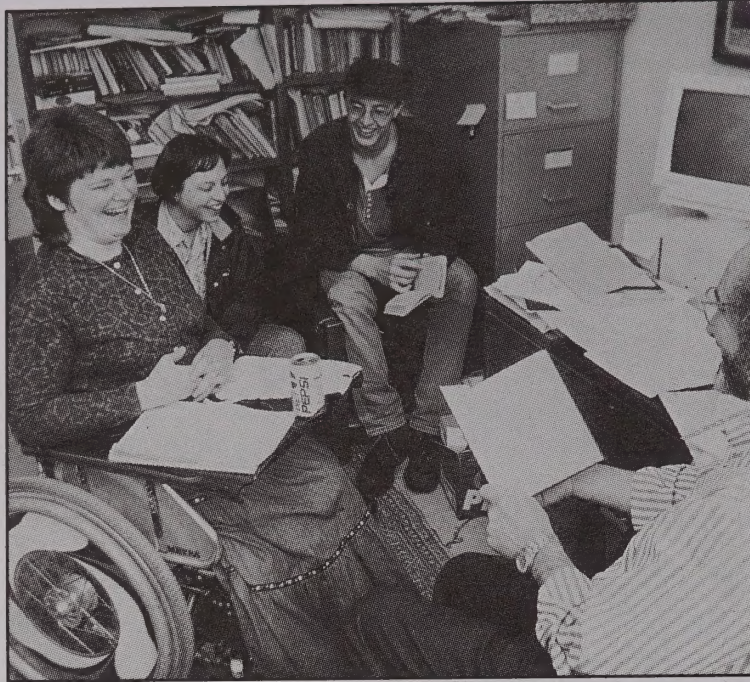
“Not everybody has good policies, but almost all the colleges have made positive changes. We still hear of colleges telling people they are not welcome, but the Disability Discrimination Act does not cover education.

“Some colleges try and pigeon-hole disabled students into other institutions which are more accessible instead.”

As a fail safe, the Universities and Colleges Admission Service (UCAS) and other central admissions agencies allow students an extra choice of college if they get a rejection based on disability.

“Attitudes are a big problem. Teachers’ views can be the most difficult, and getting people to give extra help can be a running battle,” Ms Corlett adds.

“Staff are so hard pushed, with bigger classes and less funding, that if a disabled



Talking time: seminar at Cambridge University

CHARLES MARTINEZ

student wants a handout early, it is another demand they might not always be able to meet.”

She says disabled students are now on a wide range of courses, studying different subjects. Social sciences, such as sociology, are proving especially popular.

Students who get a mandatory grant are also entitled to the means-tested Disabled Student's Allowance (DSA). This is made up of an annual payment, along with help for non-medical personal assistance and equipment.

Most students have to get loans

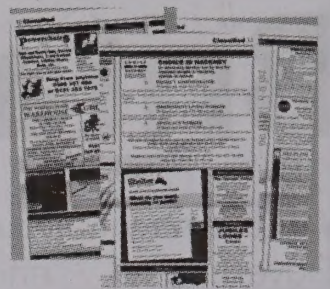
to fund their studies, and disabled students with extra costs can sometimes get more time to make repayments. Travel expenses can sometimes be claimed back from the LEA too.

Most colleges now have a disability advisor or unit and Ms Corlett suggests that prospective students find out about the college well in advance of applying, to check on accessibility and attitudes, which will save time later.

“Applicants should start research very early on – talk to teachers and disabled students already there if you can.”

• In April, Skill drew up the Disabled Student's Charter, calling on the Government to improve physical access to colleges and provide every student with the support or auxiliary aids they need. Its book, *Higher Education and Disability*, is a good guide for background research.

Skill information service, tel: 0171-978 9890, minicom: 0171-274 0565, Mon-Fri 1.30-4.30pm.



## RNIB gives support

The Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB) runs a student support service, giving advice on braille and tape services, equipment such as CCTV and reading aids, lighting and choosing a college and a career.

Student advisor Seema Dass says more colleges are setting up their own resource centres offering the use of equipment, such as scanners and computers.

“Students still face many problems though, such as lack of support and extra costs, because of having to get enlargements or photo-copies of hand-outs done.

“Money can be a problem and many spend over and above other students.”

Some students can feel isolated and miss out on parts of student life, by missing social notice boards, for example.

Ms Dass says that some colleges claim they can accommodate visually impaired people, but their promises are empty.

“In this case, we’ll go to the college and suggest improvements, and give staff training – and we nearly always prompt change.”

Student Support Service, tel: (01509) 211995

## Leeds tries to stay on course

Wheelchair user Elizabeth Wrighton (right) is a mature student at Leeds University studying for an MA in disability studies.

The popular university has 22,000 students. At least 3,000 are disabled, although the vast majority of these have asthma or diabetes.

Ms Wrighton, 31, loves her studies and says most of the campus is accessible. She is critical of many aspects of university life.

“There is supposed to be an access bus, but you can’t ring



up and use it – I have to rely on two friends to push me into college. The disability service here is good, but it is understaffed.”

She said some students weren’t understanding or helpful. “You’re still treated as a freak and a nuisance.”

Ann-Denise Worsnop, disability service support worker, said the biggest problem most students faced was a shortage of note takers.

“If they don’t get disabled student allowance, they don’t get a note taker, which can make life very difficult.

“Some students also tell us they are very lonely – but I think that is a problem in many universities.”

University spokesperson Vanessa Bridge said the disability service would be appointing two new staff members and the situation was set to improve. “The bus is really a community access vehicle, but the new service director will review this.”

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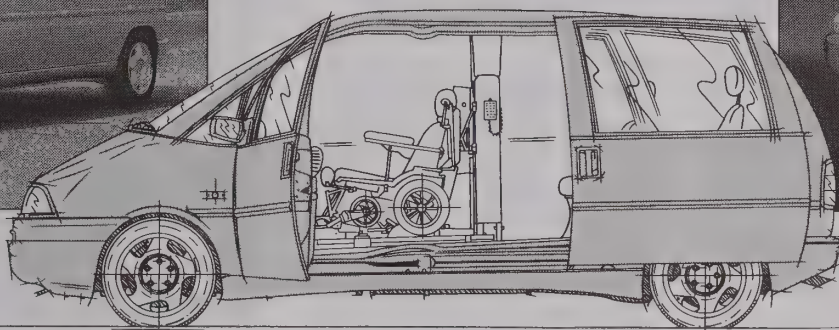
The Carchair is a wheelchair system which becomes the front passenger or driver's seat of a standard production motor car. Naturally, this eliminates the need to transfer from wheelchair to car seat and avoids the purchase of a 'special' vehicle.

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The Fiat Fiorino offers excellent facilities within the lower budget range.

### *Ford Courier*

Constable's Courier is big on space and long on comfort, offering an affordable luxury environment that makes every journey a pleasure. This model has the added advantage of automatic transmission as an optional extra.



### *Peugeot Expert*

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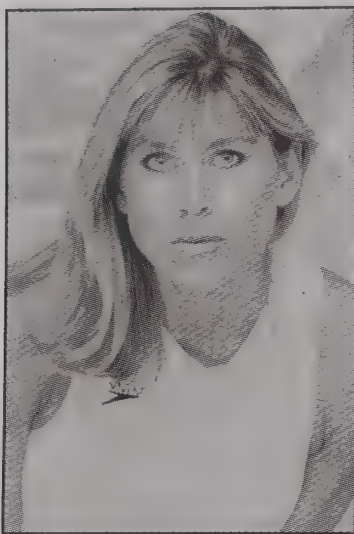


# Time to break the taboo

Lisa Hitchen reports on a widespread problem and some solutions

Did you know that a staggering three million people in the UK suffer from some form of incontinence? Yet it still remains a taboo subject – something which people feel ashamed about and want to hide.

Put simply, incontinence is a condition where a person no longer has full control of their bladder or bowel. It can range



Support: Sharron Davies

from leakage of urine when a person sneezes, laughs or moves suddenly, to a complete loss of control of both bladder and bowel movements, for example, due to a stroke.

Incontinence can affect anyone, male or female, of any

age, and can happen for a variety of reasons.

The Continence Foundation says 80 per cent of those with urinary incontinence can be helped or cured. This year, the charity is using National Continence Day on 3 June to try to get people to help themselves to stay continent.

The first ever National Pelvic Floorathon will be held on the day, funded by the Department of Health. It will encourage therapists and exercise instructors around the country to teach people body conditioning exercises which focus on the pelvic floor.

The event will be launched in London by former Olympic swimmer Sharron Davies. Sharron realised the importance of pelvic floor exercise during her own pregnancy with her son Elliot, now three.

Unlike the muscles of the arms or legs, the pelvic floor muscles cannot be seen and because of this, they tend to be forgotten. Personal trainer, Simone Price, 40, from Coleford in Gloucestershire, is very aware of this.

"I have actually had pelvic floor problems because of my work. When I was shouting in my exercise classes, I was



Relief: Simone Price

leaking quite a lot so I went to a continence clinic. I saw a very good advisor who gave me an internal examination.

"She told me the only option I had was an operation and in my line of work that would have meant the end of my career.

"But after a month of exercises on a special machine and lots of kegel exercises (for the pelvic floor), I did improve and didn't have to have an operation. I now teach pelvic floor exercises to women and to men."

Another issue is continence in

old age. Nurses and care workers spend a lot of time lifting older people onto and off commodes and toilets, sometimes unnecessarily.

Yet because elderly people do not realise they need to use the toilet, or because of poor communication skills, they cannot always tell the carer.

Specialist consultant physiotherapist in Salford, Julia Herbert, says it is vital to try and help avoid incontinence in old age. "Exercises are part of a big story. The hope is that if people are better educated, it will get them exercising and hopefully prevent incontinence in later life."

For people who want help but are reluctant to talk to their GP,

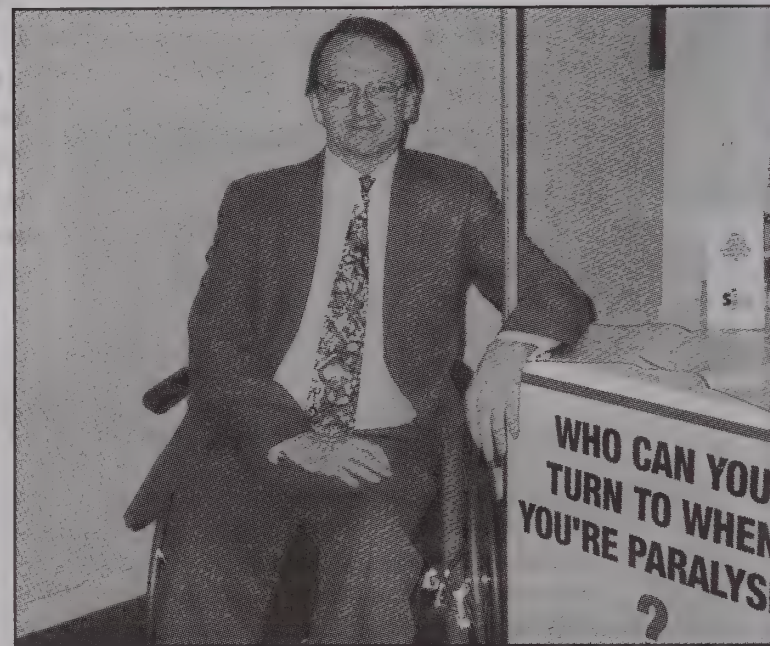
the Continence Foundation runs a helpline which provides confidential advice to anyone with a bowel or bladder problem.

Josephine Brown is a helpline continence advisor. She says: "We take on average 25 to 30 calls a day.

"Because of the type of problems that we deal with, very often we are the first point of contact for people who have never spoken to anyone else. These are people who spend a lifetime with a bladder problem. They see our telephone number and call us.

"I think it cuts out the embarrassment of a face-to-face interview with a doctor."

Jenny Henderson, 53, from



Hidden costs: Stephen Bradshaw says incontinence can be expensive



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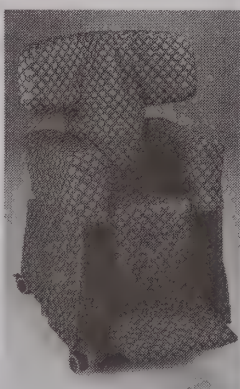
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Milton Keynes, has certainly not tried to hide her incontinence.

Jenny, a journalist and magazine editor, was diagnosed with progressive multiple sclerosis (MS) four years ago, and is determined not to let double incontinence rule her life.

"My incontinence was actually there prior to the diagnosis of MS. I was seeing a gynaecologist because it was felt that I had stretched the floor of my pelvis when I had a child years ago.

"I had an operation six years ago where they stitched up the bladder to give it more 'workability' and I have had a couple of operations since then, but none of it worked.

"Then they found out I had got diabetes and the assumption was that the diabetes was causing the urinary problems.

"I got worried so I went to see a urologist privately and it was then found out that I'd got MS.

"First I used self catheterisation (inserting a catheter yourself at intervals)



and that lasted me quite a while until I became more immobile.

"Then I had a urethral catheter fitted which was a disaster because of the infections. Finally, 18 months ago, I persuaded the doctors to fit a super pubic catheter which effectively allowed me to live a normal life for nine months. This was very successful and I was very happy.

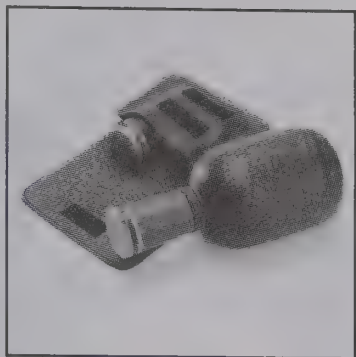
"But in the meantime my bladder was getting smaller and smaller. Now the only answer is to have an ileostomy on the NHS.

"I think incontinence is one of the most disabling factors of my MS and I think that is true for an awful lot of people who would be reticent to admit it.

"I do lectures on incontinence and the only way to get people to talk about it is to admit I'm incontinent. That tends to open up the floodgates and get people talking."

To contact your nearest Continence Advisor or set up a "pelvic floorathon", call The Continence Foundation Helpline, tel: 0191-213 0050.

# Ways to make it easy



Manfred Sauer's Uribag

Many new products on the market aim to make life easier for people with incontinence.

Manfred Sauer UK has produced the Uribag which is suitable for men only, although the company is designing a female version.

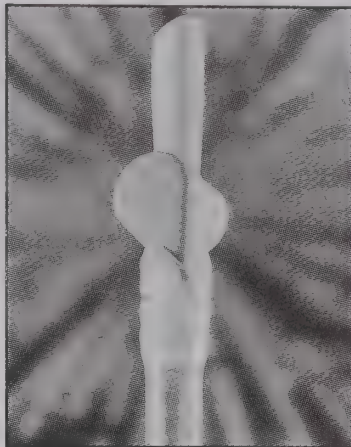
The bag consists of a pocket sized plastic tube with a fold-away latex bag inside. It will hold 1.1 litres of urine.

After use, the bag can be washed out with warm soapy water, dried, and put back into the tube. Each Uribag costs £16 plus VAT and £1.50 p&p.

Contact Manfred Sauer UK, tel: (01304) 620446.

Another recent development is the Finetech-Brindley Bladder Controller. This is implanted surgically and is suitable for some people with spinal injuries, multiple sclerosis and spina bifida.

The device controls the sphincter muscle by trapping the anterior nerves in the



The Simpla Lever Tap

bottom of the spinal cord.

A transmitter is placed over

the implanted receiver block which is under the skin in the chest or abdomen.

When the transmitter is switched on, it causes the bladder to empty. The implant can also be used for bowel control. For more information, contact your local hospital or the nearest spinal injuries unit.

Another new product is the SIA suppository inserter for people with spinal lesions around C5-C7 who cannot hold a suppository but want to manage their bowels themselves.

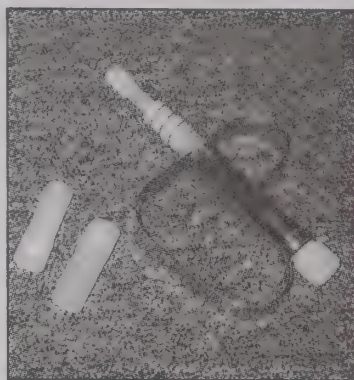
The inserter costs £42 including VAT and p&p. It is available from the Spinal Injuries Association, tel: 0181-444 2121.

Simpla Plastics has designed the Simpla Lever Tap (a winner of the 1997 Independent Living Design Awards).

This device is an outlet tap connected to two different types of drainage bags – the

Trident T2 and the Simpla S5. The tap has a two-stage action which helps prevent accidents. It costs £24.79 to £25.18, including VAT.

For more information,



SIA's suppository inserter

contact Simpla Plastics, tel: 0161-652 2222.

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## Hidden expenses mean incontinence can cost you dear

Incontinence is only one of the inconveniences people who have spinal injuries have to deal with.

External affairs director of the Spinal Injuries Association (SIA), Stephen Bradshaw, (left) himself tetraplegic, said: "If incontinence is well managed, then it is not a problem, but if

it is badly managed then it can be devastating."

Part of the problem is equipment. Mr Bradshaw says: "If you're a man, then you can get equipment free on prescription. You get your supplies from your doctor and it costs you nothing to get leg bags.

"If you're a woman and you don't have an in-dwelling catheter, you may need pads. These are not covered by prescription and you have to pay for that yourself or get your health authority to pay. Incontinence can be expensive."

This expense is a long running saga, as the Continence

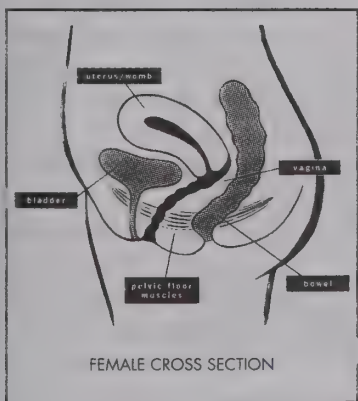
Foundation director David Pollock explains.

"The procedures for accepting new products seem fine, but in practice the Department of Health is delaying the inclusion of new items on the tariff, presumably to save money.

"This means that both companies and individuals are

having to suffer the consequences. For example, the company Bard had to work for two years to get its catheter valve accepted.

"In the last ten years, some health authorities have cut back and in some cases gone too far. There's even waiting lists before people are being supplied."

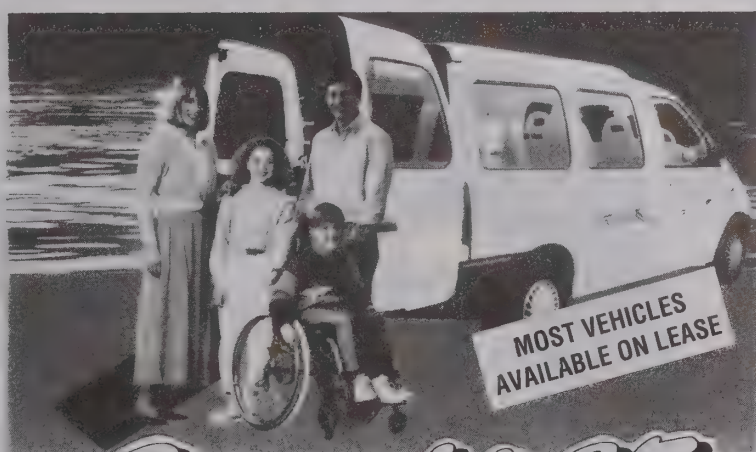


### Get active!

To find your pelvic floor muscles, interrupt the flow of urine when you go to the toilet. You should feel the muscles squeeze as you stop the flow.

Only do this test once a week. Stand, sit or lie down with your knees slightly apart. Tighten the muscles slowly and hold for about ten seconds. Relax and then try this again. Aim to do this ten times.

Now try to do the exercise quickly. Again, aim to do ten. Repeat this routine: ten slow exercises then ten fast, at least four times a day. You should notice an improvement in six weeks.



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# Jim'll fix it?

The RNID's new boss, now on his third career, wants a better deal for deaf people. Mary Wilkinson meets him

There are 8.7 million deaf or hard of hearing people in the UK and the Royal National Institute for Deaf People (RNID) only reaches tens of thousands of them.

That enormous gap is what attracted James Strachan, 43, to the job of chief executive, which he began in April. "Here was a real possibility of a group of us making a real difference to the lives of a huge group of people, and you don't come across that opportunity every day of the week."

He wants the RNID to reach hundreds of thousands of people and improve their lives "radically" over the next three to five years, and he has begun to take action to make that happen.

"The potential is there, and knowing the organisation as I did, there was absolutely nothing stopping us doing it."

This optimism must come as nectar to anyone connected with the RNID, particularly when they see James Strachan's record.

At Kings School Canterbury, a public school, he was academically a year ahead of his age group, and became captain of the judo team. After Cambridge (an English and economics degree), he worked freelance for the BBC, hoping to get into film making. But realising he couldn't have much control of

the film world when he was broke, he opted for financial independence, and was taken on as a trainee investment banker with the American bank Chase Manhattan. From there he jumped to Merrill Lynch, worked in North America and the Middle East, and became the youngest ever board director of Merrill Lynch International at 28 and, at 32, the youngest managing director of another offshoot, Merrill Lynch Capital Markets.



Burmese woman JAMES STRACHAN

In 1988, having got where he wanted, he quit, and turned full time to photography, acquiring the first distinction in postgraduate photojournalism

at the London College of Printing and setting up a freelance business that took him all over the world, writing and photographing for national newspapers and travel books. His happiest days, apparently.

He was brought in as an adviser on the RNID's finance committee in 1994 and later became a trustee. Last year he was hired to produce a marketing strategy for the charity, now being implemented.

What is missing from this successful game plan is that James Strachan is profoundly deaf. It is something he learned to play down.

When he was an investment banker, he would spend hours briefing himself before a meeting – "names were what foxed me". Then he would go in aiming to wow them "because either I might have to point out in this meeting or sure as hell in the next one or the next one that I was deaf. So if you can show you really have value and then say 'Oh, by the way, I'm deaf' you are better off than your hearing colleague."

An only child, brought up by his mother when his father left, he remembers being told by someone: "It's very sad that you're deaf James, but it could be worse. But never forget, you will have to work twice as hard



An ordered life: James Strachan in his London studio. Control of one's environment as a deaf person is critical, he says. He has 10,000 books and two standard poodles.

as anybody else."

He did, and he learned judo and had extensive speech therapy to beat the mocking he got at school. But the loneliness stayed till university and the shyness is still with him.

Now he asks: "Why should we have to work twice as hard as anybody else, because a lot of that is just overcoming other people's perceptions? It's one of the reasons why I am doing this."

Another perception he wants to shatter is: give a person a hearing aid and they are ok. "I

like to think the optical equivalent to that would be a pair of glasses smeared with tar."

Financially, the RNID is in good shape, he claims, almost breaking even last year on an income of £30 million.

But he wants to get away from a fixation on budgets and the "surfeit of commercial astuteness" that he thinks now marks the voluntary sector. "We are here to help people. We are not here to make money."

As a user of spoken English (via lip reading, etc), it has been said he will set back the closer integration of deaf people fostered by his predecessor Doug Alker (one of the 50,000 British Sign Language users).

James Strachan argues deaf people should have the right to choose between spoken English and BSL, and the RNID should be giving parents and educationists up to date information on both.

"It is hardly likely that if I was anti-signing I would a) be spending two hours each evening learning how to sign or b) that one of my first decisions here was to boost the resources we put into training sign interpreters by several hundred thousand pounds."

Other areas he will concentrate on are education, employment and providing hearing aids.

Campaigning on these issues has become a priority. Last month the RNID fought the closure of an interpreters' support group by Buckinghamshire health authority and James Strachan went on local radio.

"Many charities, and this isn't just applicable to the deaf, are quite softly spoken when it comes to demanding. They shouldn't be."

## It's DynaMyte!

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The new DynaMyte is a lightweight, portable device with powerful communication capabilities offering greater freedom to the ambulant user.

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DynaMyte is a natural product extension of DynaVox 2 which successfully enables many users with mobility impairment to develop a greater sense of self expression and independence.



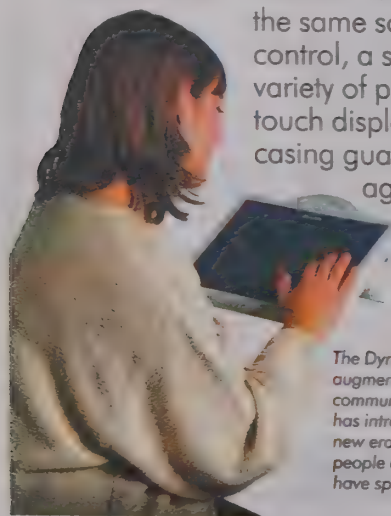
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# 'We call ourselves the Odd Bods!'

Ella Cartner has adopted five disabled children and says her regret is that she can't have any more

My husband Alan and I found ourselves in a position where we couldn't have children – a shattering blow.

Adoption came to mind, but it wasn't an easy option. We've had more laughs out of undertakers than in getting social workers interested in adoption. Patience and determination were definitely needed – but we have acquired five glorious children.

We didn't make a conscious decision to adopt disabled children, but out of hundreds that I applied for, the adoption agency called back with our eldest, Chris, who is now 18. He has Down's Syndrome and is happily eccentric.

When we adopted Chris he was three and a half and couldn't walk or talk. I didn't want to adopt a child with learning disabilities, but I fell in love with him.



Happy family: Sarah, Alan, Aaron, Ella, Stephen, and Chris Cartner

GERALD WRIGHT

Chris leaves his special school soon and is looking forward to going to a centre for social learning.

Stephen, 14, came next and was 18 months old when he arrived. He was born with achondroplasia hydrocephalus and is very quiet by nature.

Stephen goes to the local high school near Grantham where he has settled in quite well, although his very short stature gives rise to some problems,

such as reaching cupboards, but the others help him. He now has a full-time ancillary helper to use the lifts at school and has an excellent quality of life.

The next child, three-year-old Lucy, unfortunately died. We only had her for ten weeks but loved her dearly and learnt a great deal from her.

Then along came Sarah, who was 11 months old when we adopted her. She is now 11 and a real tomboy – full of life and

vigour and a popular person.

Sarah has a hidden disability and is at a mainstream school.

Azzie, christened Aaron, is nine and has spina bifida which has given him screwed up feet. He wears callipers and has had surgery. No one in the medical profession is sure how he manages, but he gets around unaided. Azzie is a bright child and attends a mainstream village school.

Family life is never dull and

we have proudly named the house after ourselves, "Odd Bods".

The four children get on well together, fighting like cat and dog one minute, then standing firmly united the next. They complement one another, taking an interest in each other's hobbies.

We've had relatively few problems along the way – mind you, we never look for any!

Transport can be tricky, and for a long time we travelled in convoy, all squashed like sardines in a Volvo estate with a trailer for the wheelchairs. But we have now treated ourselves to a Nissan Serena, with a wheelchair bracket which is much better.

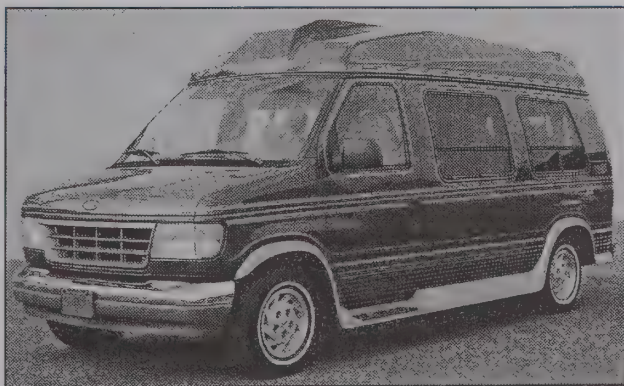
None of us in this house see one another as debilitated or different from normal (whatever normal is).

The only regret I have about adoption is that I can't afford to have any more children – if I could, I'd have dozens.

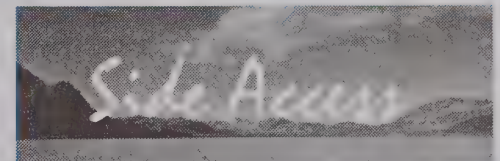
• If you are interested in adoption or fostering, contact *Be My Parent*, a paper published by the British Agencies for Adoption and Fostering, tel: 0171-593 2060/1/2/3.

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# Letters to the Editor



*Disability Now*, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ  
Minicom: 0171-436 9914 Fax: 0171-436 4582

## Special school defence

I found your news story "Special School Shame" (*DN January*) about a study of special and mainstream schools in 13 local authorities very difficult to accept.

Experience has shown that researchers who are out to prove a point often deliberately avoid investigating an area which contradicts their argument.

I found Mark Vaughan's comments – "The writing is on the wall for special schools. Society should be working towards their closure" – totally unacceptable. I recently listened to a lecture on Leicestershire's attempt at introducing inclusive education and was not very impressed with the education being provided.

Our own school in Sunderland was built immediately adjacent to a large comprehensive school in 1977 and the education is on a shared basis. Each year group (ages 11-16) has a joint timetable and pupils move between the two schools according to where their next lesson is to be taught. Pupils of

level four and above sit all the subjects offered at GCSE according to their preferred options, while lower level pupils gain accreditation through other examination boards. Pupils can also study GNVQ programmes.

Post 16 pupils have similar options.

The great strength of this shared approach is that disabled pupils can develop fully in social, cultural and physical fields. Whilst they are studying academically, according to their abilities, they also receive all the necessary therapeutic and medical treatments they require.

The school is hardly failing its pupils. The April OFSTED report opened with the statement "This is a good school with many outstanding features".

I hope other good special schools will come forward and refute the statement made by Mr Vaughan.

**Fredwyn Haynes** (now retired)  
Head Teacher  
Barbara Priestman School  
City of Sunderland

## DN back on Internet

Plans are going ahead to have *DN* back on the Internet by the beginning of June. Find us on: [www.DisabilityNow.org.uk](http://www.DisabilityNow.org.uk)  
Our e-mail address will be: [Editor@DisabilityNow.org.uk](mailto:Editor@DisabilityNow.org.uk) and messages will come direct to the *DN* office. We look forward to hearing from you – Mary Wilkinson

## Naidex does welcome you

In response to Sue McMullen's letter (*DN May*), Naidex Care Management is an annual event primarily targeted at the professional, who has always made up 70 per cent of the audience, but which in no way excludes the public if they wish to attend.

We would like to stress that there is no truth in the rumour currently circulating that people with disabilities will not be allowed into the event. On the contrary, the many people with disabilities who work and have a role in the disability arena will be more than welcome to attend.

Members of the public are now also invited to attend Independent Living, a series of events targeted at the consumer in different regions, which will cut down travelling – a common criticism of Naidex.

**Nicky Mason**  
Exhibition director  
Reed Exhibition Companies (UK)

## Hopes of New Labour

Over the last four years, I have, with other disability/medical/older people's charities, had to spend most of my line time counselling people who felt fear – inspired by the Tory Government – about their essential living/care cost benefits, access to NHS/social service care for long-term conditions, a fund-holding GP seeing them as a costly liability and refusing to take them on, or a feeling of being stigmatised and rubbish.

It was a sweet moment when local elderly members dared whisper to me how happy they felt at the Tory defeat.

Let's hope that new Labour

## Tactile Glasgow

As your article on Glasgow (*DN May*) indicated, there are few facilities for visually impaired visitors.

What a pity, then, that the article did not mention the interactive tactile model of Glasgow cathedral precinct, installed by the Dog Rose Trust, working with the Resource Centre for the Blind in Glasgow (tel: 0141- 248 5811).

There are also tactile plans outside on the precinct and braille information and sensory planting in St Nicholas Garden behind the Provand's Lordship house. Other tactile plans are in Buchanan Street and at the west end of the city.

**Julia Ionides**  
The Dog Rose Trust  
83 Greenacres  
Ludlow, SY8 1LZ

will not disappoint them.

PS Could we have some *DN* posters to distribute locally?  
**Rosalie Everatt**, RGN  
Pain Wise UK  
Whitstable, Kent  
*Karen Bresloff*, tel: 0171-383 4575,  
has new posters to give away –  
thank you for your help – Editor

## Not amused

I was not in the least bit entertained by Marigold Hope's lengthy description of the disgusting and abusive Mr A (*Student diary*, *DN May*).

Instead of treating us to a blow by blow account of his "forceful propositioning" (unprofessional conduct, perhaps?), and the appalling stories she told to fend him off, why didn't she do herself and other disabled women a favour by reporting him?

**Diane Pungartnik**  
London N16

## DN's diary

by Dan Batten

### Punished crips

Italian Bishop Javier Echevarria claimed recently that most disabled people are offspring of "impure parents" who indulged in sex before marriage. Echevarria is head of the Catholic organisation Opus Dei, thought right wing and sinister by some Catholics. Opus Dei's founder, Josemaria Escriva de Balaguer wasn't such a goody himself either, it is said. Cor blimey, wouldn't we like to see them de-frocked?

### Silly crips

A new wheelchair which eliminates crashes by using artificial intelligence software is being developed at the University of Wales. There you have it. Crip intelligence isn't artificial; it doesn't even register. Watch out for the new "replace-a-brain" plug-in cartridge coming soon.

### Job spot

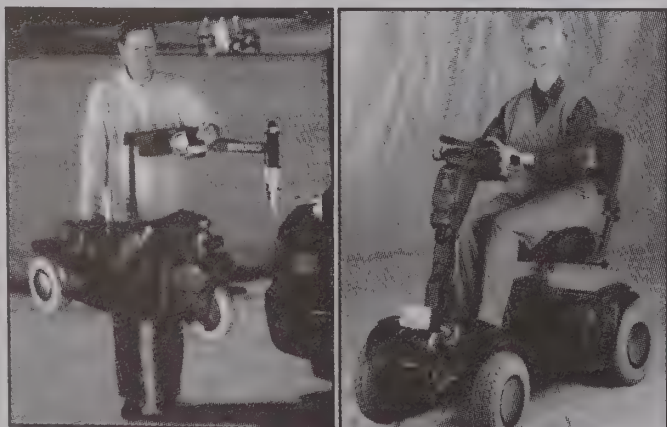
West Midlands police recently sent out application forms in Braille as well as type for the position of driver. Wheelchair users should look out for upcoming vacancies in the Met for window cleaners, chimney sweeps and other ancillaries.

### Cream puff

Sir John Hannam, just retired after 27 years as a Tory MP and a co-chair of the All Party Disablement Group, was branded out of touch by his wife. Asked to go and buy a pot of cream, he said: "How do I do that?" Sounds like one less clot to represent us.



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Special vehicles, powered wheelchairs and scooters can also be tested. Many other mobility products will be on show from car top hoists and swivel seats to car accessories. Advice and information on every aspect of mobility is also available. Everything at the show is wheelchair accessible.

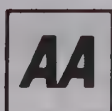
It is easy to get to the Roadshow by public transport with a book in advance bus service from some London mainline railway stations and a regular shuttle service from Reading railway station. There is ample free car parking and, if you pre-book, wheelchairs can be loaned free of charge for use at the show.

**Admission is free.**

The show is open Friday 11 to Sunday 13 July between 10am and 5pm daily.

Mobility Roadshow, Transport Research Laboratory, Crowthorne, Berkshire

To find out more information phone Jacqui Jones or Jan Gethings on 01344 661010 / 661020  
or E Mail [mavis.dot.crow@gtnet.gov.uk](mailto:mavis.dot.crow@gtnet.gov.uk)







Above: Anita soaks up the rays in a green mix swimsuit (polyester/elastane Lycra, £22, Marks & Spencer) and blue shell sarong (£12, Marks & Spencer). Dan keeps cool in azure blue shorts (nylon/polyamide, £15, Marks & Spencer) and blue T-shirt (cotton, £7, C&A). Sportswatch, £25, Marks & Spencer. They stretch out on a Tag Azure beach towel, £16.50, and a Daisy Paprika towel, £12.50, both John Lewis. Rich aqua cap, cotton, £8, Marks & Spencer. Below left: Anita suits this multi-stripe shorts costume (polyamide/elastane Lycra, £16, Marks & Spencer) and Mondo blue-tint shades, £20. Below right: Dan tests the water in multi-colour shorts (cotton/nylon, £15, C&A); blue T-shirt, as above.



# Fashion for

How about a day at the lido? Lisa Hitchen and Hayley Kerr report

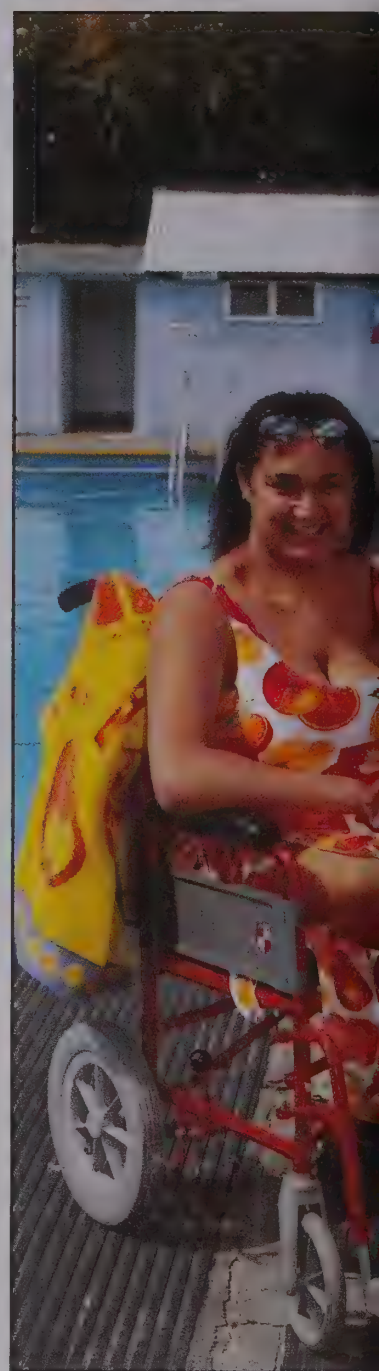
After a long, cold winter, DN is celebrating the arrival of the warmer weather with a four-page "Here Comes Summer" spread.

For our fashion shoot, we looked for somewhere that complemented a water-saving theme and what better place than a lido (outdoor pool)? Rather than filling paddling pools for the kids and draining domestic water supplies, the local lido is the ideal place to cool off in the heat.

Along with models Dan Rush and Anita Lewis, we visited the lido in Tooting Bec, South London, where the pool is gigantic and the surroundings tranquil. Even the sounds of trains rushing past nearby do not destroy the peaceful atmosphere.

The pool area was accessible and had adapted toilets, though we felt that a wheelchair user would probably struggle in the narrow changing cubicles lining the pool. The Tooting lido is a public pool and although it is not used by any disabled swimming groups, several disabled members swim here.

Anita, a wheelchair user from Islington, loved the bold and



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For further information please contact Maire Warren at Churchtown, Lanlivery, Bodmin, Cornwall PL30 5BT. Telephone 01208 872148

Above: Anita wears an orange swimsuit (polyester/elastane, £16, C&A), and matching Mondo blue-tint shades, £20, Mondo; sportswatch, £25, Marks & Spencer. Beachtowel, £12.50, John Lewis. Top right: Anita is sitting in a wheelchair (nylon/polyamide, £16.99, Next). Beachtowel, as above. Bottom right: Dan wears a yellow swimshorts (£12, Burton Menswear). Top inset: In the shade: a self-propelled wheelchair (cotton/nylon, £15, C&A). Prices start at John Lewis.

## Mercedes VW

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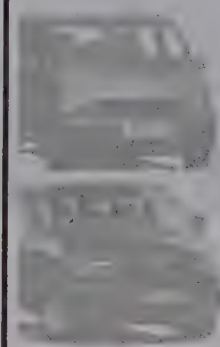
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# Recast – sunny!



JAMIE FACER



bright range of swimwear we showed her. Her favourite was the citrus outfit from C&A (left). "Freaky, beautiful colours," she said. She found all the swimwear easy to wear, apart from the M&S one-piece with the built-in bra, which was "not very comfortable".

Dan, from Southampton, has right-side hemiplegia. He was a bit shocked to see the bright things we had selected. He told us he usually prefers toned-down shades of blue or red, and firmly disapproves of wearing hats. However, he liked the yellow T-shirt (C&A) with the stripey swimming trunks (Burton Menswear, far right), and "would wear them if they were a bit longer". The azure blue swimshorts from M&S fared badly though. "They remind me of my grandad's tea-towel," he said.

The multi-coloured pattern shorts (C&A) made him feel "like an American tourist". But Dan was a fan of the

sportswatches (M&S top left).

If you would like to find out about disabled swimming groups near you, call the National Association of Swimming Clubs for the Handicapped, The Willows, Mayles Lane, Wickham, Hants PO17 5ND, tel: (01329) 833689.

Tooting Bec Lido, tel: 0181-871 7198

## Haliwick Association of Swimming Therapy

This is an organisation of volunteers who teach people with disabilities to swim using the 50-year-old Haliwick Method. The Method is based on scientific principles of hydrostatics and body mechanics, and no flotation aids are used. Swimmers are taught on a one-to-one ratio of instructor to swimmer. The Association has a number of publications for sale. Tel: 0181-958 1642.



one-piece (polyester/Lycra elastane, £11, C&A). Blue tinted (polyester, £25, Marks & Spencer; Citrus print good in an orange T-shirt and black patterned shorts

an orange basic one-piece (polyester, £14.99, Marks & Spencer; Citrus print good in an orange T-shirt and black patterned shorts

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## INDEPENDENCE DAY



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# A barbecue banquet

Hayley Kerr finds light and healthy treats for the barbie this summer

## Mediterranean salad

100g ciabatta or French bread, torn into bite-sized pieces; 25g hazelnuts; 4 plum tomatoes; 1/2 cucumber; 12 black olives; 1 red onion, sliced; 2 little gem lettuces, cut into bite-sized pieces; handful fresh parsley, chopped; handful fresh basil, chopped; 60ml vinaigrette.

Toast the bread under a pre-heated grill until lightly browned all over. Brown the hazelnuts in a saucepan for 1-2 minutes, leave to cool and chop roughly. Toss all the ingredients together in a large bowl. Set aside for at least an hour before serving to allow the flavours to develop. Serves 4

(Balance magazine, May/June)

## Brown rice salad

3 cups cooked brown rice; 3 cups chopped pineapple; 1 cup chopped celery; 1/2 cup chopped green pepper; 1 onion, finely chopped; 3 tbsp finely chopped parsley; 4 tbsp seedless raisins/sultanas; 1/2 cup roasted sunflower seeds; 4 tbsp chopped dried apricots; 3 tbsp finely chopped mint.

Dressing



For starters: a handy parasol plate from Help the Aged clips onto your parasol and can be used for snacks or flower displays.

1/3 cup salad oil; 4 tbsp lemon-juice; 2 tsp curry powder; 2 tsp soya sauce; 1 tbsp honey. (Women's World Cookbook of South African Favourite Recipes, Chameleon Press)

## Fish kebabs

1/2 kg firm white fish, skinned, filleted and cubed; 6 thick wedges onion; juice of 1 lemon; 2 tsp wine vinegar; 250ml oil; pinch each dry thyme, sweet basil, rosemary; 1 tsp salt; 1/2 tsp pepper; 6 bay leaves, halved; 6 cherry tomatoes; 12 brown mushroom caps.

Combine onion, lemon, vinegar, oil, thyme, basil, rosemary, salt and pepper. Add fish and bay leaves and marinade for 30 minutes. Remove fish and

reserve marinade. Thread onto 6 skewers. Grill over coals for about 10 minutes; turn and baste often with marinade. (Cooking the South African Way by Magdaleen de Wyk, CNA)

## Black-eyed bean burgers

1 x 400g can black-eyed beans, rinsed and drained; 450ml vegetable stock; 30ml olive oil; 1 small red pepper, finely chopped; 1 onion, finely chopped; 2 cloves garlic, crushed; 1 green chilli, de-seeded and finely chopped; 1 carrot, peeled and finely chopped; 30ml fresh coriander, chopped; salt and freshly ground black pepper.

Blend the beans and lentils in a food processor until smooth, or mash with a potato masher. Heat the oil in a frying pan and cook the pepper, garlic, onion and carrot for 4-5 minutes until softened. Remove from the heat and stir into the bean mixture along with the chopped coriander. Season well. Divide the mixture into 16 portions, roll into balls then flatten slightly to make patties. Chill until firm. Brush the patties with a little oil then cook on the barbecue for 5-6 minutes, until browned, turning occasionally. (Balance magazine, May/June)

## Milktart

Line a 225mm diameter pie dish with a thin layer of puff pastry and bake blind.

### Filling

1 litre milk; 1 cinnamon stick; 80g sugar; 50g cake flour; 50g butter; 4 eggs, separated; pinch of salt; cinnamon sugar.

Bring milk and cinnamon stick to the boil. In a heat-proof bowl, mix the sugar, cake flour and salt. Add the hot milk very slowly to this mixture. Return to the saucepan and continue stirring over a very low heat until thick and the flour is cooked properly. Remove from heat, add butter, leave to cool slightly then add to the beaten egg yolks. Return again to the saucepan and stir over low heat until thick. Fold in stiffly beaten egg whites and salt. Pour filling into pre-baked pastry shell. Bake for 20 minutes at 180 degrees C; then 160 degrees C for the last 10 minutes. Sprin-

kle with cinnamon sugar. (Sannie Smit's All-Colour South African Cookbook, CNA)

## Exotic fruit salad

1 orange, peeled and cut into slices; 2 kiwi fruit, peeled and sliced thickly; 1 banana, sliced; 1 passion fruit, cut in half with seeds and pulp removed; 1/4 ripe melon, peeled and de-seeded, cut into cubes; handful of ripe, hulled strawberries, halved; fructose to taste.

Combine prepared fruit in a bowl and sprinkle with fructose. Serve as soon as possible for maximum vitamin C value. If you prefer juice, squeeze over the juice of an orange. (Diets to help Multiple Sclerosis, Rita Greer, Thorsons)

## Thirst quenchers



Non-alcoholic Ame, £1.99 at Safeway; set of four glasses, £6 and bag £12, Marks & Spencer

## Lemonade

Wash 2 lemons. Slice, with peel, and place in a large jug. Pour about 1 pint (550ml) boiling water over the slices, and sprinkle in 1 tbsp of soft brown sugar. Leave to stand overnight. Strain, then dilute with water to taste. (Diets to help Gluten and Wheat Allergy, Rita Greer, Thorsons)

## Cool Summer Salad

1 pound strawberries; juice of 2 oranges; 1 bottle dry cider.

Wash and slice the strawberries. Soak in the orange juice for 1 hour. Pour in cider and stir. Add ice and serve in tall glasses.

## Fruit Juice Cup

3 cups lemon juice; 1 quart orange juice; 1 cup pineapple juice; 1 cup syrup; 2 quarts ginger ale; orange/lemon slices.

Mix the fruit juices and sugar syrup. Pour over ice in a punch bowl. Add ginger ale and garnish with fruit slices. Turn into something stronger by adding 2 ounces of vodka, gin, rum or whisky to each serving. Vodka mixes well with almost any kind of fruit juice. (Vogue Cocktails, by Henry McNulty, Ebury Press)

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# Don't splash out this summer!

Water companies are urging us to preserve water as another scorching summer threatens. The Water Services Association of England and Wales gave *DN* this advice

- Prepare vegetables in a bowl of water instead of under a running tap.
- Only boil as much water as you need – this saves water and electricity.
- Take a shower instead of a bath. A bath uses 135 litres of water, a shower only 45 litres.
- Make sure all occupants of the house know where the internal water stop-cock is in case of leak or flood and that they can turn it on and off.
- Use organic matter (compost or manure) on the garden to keep water in the soil.
- Pull up those weeds. They steal water from your plants.
- Water plants less often but more thoroughly as this makes



A well-watered garden can be a beautiful oasis MARTHA ROBINSON

- plants more resistant in dry weather.
- Forget mowing until the grass is longer and then leave the clippings on the lawn – it will help the lawn to survive the summer drought.
- Buying a new washing machine? Look for the energy-efficient label showing how much water and electricity it uses.



Keep an eye on your barbecue and relax in the sunshine at the same time in a new deckchair (£29.95) from Help the Aged (above).

The chair has a rocking design which makes it easier for you to get out of the sitting position, literally rocking you to your feet. Its colourful, stripey, canvas seat is UVA-resistant, and the pine frame is weatherproof. Tel: 0151-708 6556.

If you're spending time outdoors, remember to cover up. Even on cloudy days, it is possible to get burnt. Boots has



## Charred for the course

Don't end up with burnt offerings this summer. *Which?* magazine has these safety tips to cook your way to a perfect sizzler of a barbie

- Always cook outdoors – even with gas or electric barbecues.
- Keep the barbecue away from fences, climbing plants and overhanging trees.
- Always follow instructions for arranging and lighting the barbecue. A good amount of barbecue lighting fluid is often needed to get those coals blazing.
- Never ignite a barbecue with paraffin or petrol as it could blow back violently.
- Use oven gloves and keep young children away.
- Use long handled tools to move food around.

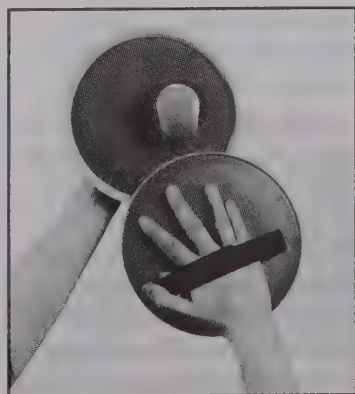
some new suncare products (below), including Soltan Children's 15 (£8.99). The suncream is easier to rub in so children can apply it themselves. Also new is a Body-Firming Aftersun (£5.99), in the form of a refreshing gel. Leave winter behind and fake it with Soltan Self Tanning Mousse (£5.99).

When you're ready to eat, spread out on a pretty picnic rug from Marks & Spencer (£38). This roomy rug folds away and fastens into a carrier bag. Marks & Spencer also does a handy set of tools for the barbie: barbecue tongs (£12), a barbecue fork (£7) and a barbecue turner (£7).

Help the Aged does a hardwearing picnic set (£10.99), ideal for outdoor eating. It has plastic bowls,

cups, plates and cutlery for four, and can be packed away in a drawstring bag.

If you're not asleep after eating, how about a game of Supercatch? (£5.95.) An outdoor game from Nottingham Rehab (below), it consists of two fluorescent catchers with a Velcro surface to which the ball sticks when caught. Tel: 0115-945 2345.



## Barbecue giveaway

We have a Palermo Trolley BBQ worth £40 kindly donated by Sainsbury's Homebase to give away to a lucky reader. Set on a wheeled trolley, the barbecue is easily portable and the trolley has a tray underneath so everything you need for cooking is close to hand. With a grill area of 29cm x 54cm, you can serve up a real feast. A windbreak keeps those unwanted breezes at bay. To enter, send your name and address to *DN*, address on page 2. The first entry to be picked out of a hat will win.



Closing date: 28 June.

This offer is not open to *DN* staff or associates.

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## Theatre

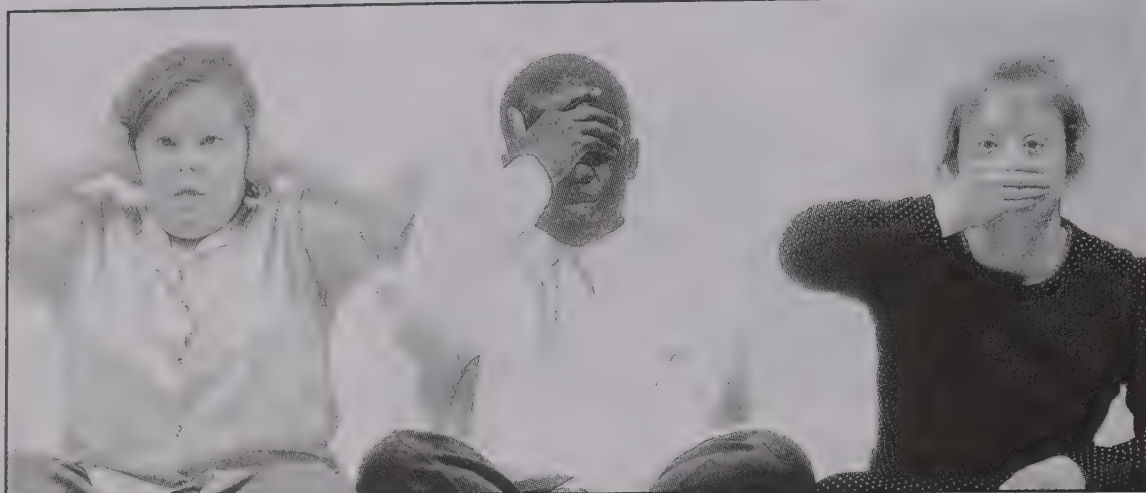
"This play is about sex and violence and avarice", Sheldon Antoine tells us in the programme for Strathcona's new play. He should know. He plays Maurice Hastings, one of the main perpetrators.

Strathcona is never afraid to tackle big subjects, such as the frightening threat of eugenics; the sham world of faith-healing evangelists; and, here, financial corruption and the sexual abuse of learning disabled people by people in authority.

But will the British justice system protect them when only two per cent of crimes against learning disabled people result in court convictions?

Here the complex plot seems overly weighted towards the build-up rather than the denouement, which denies us Michael's struggle and triumph in the court room. This was

## An Error of Judgement



Hear no evil... (from left) Strathcona's Nicola Smith, Paul Wakelin and Michelle Moroney

only their second performance and therefore not as slick as one expects Strathcona to be.

However, at times the actors struggle with phraseology that is unfamiliar to them and lines come across as if learnt by rote rather than with real depth of feeling and meaning.

The use of blackouts after every short scene, provoking rounds of applause, becomes irritating – there are more creative ways to mark the ends of scenes.

However, there are beautiful dance and movement pieces, in particular the ribbon dance of the Grecian Fates. The Grecian

allusions are echoed in the set (by Neil Irish) and the haunting music (by Alistaire Gavin).

Another powerful piece of work. The snapshot images that make up the incriminating evidence chill to the bone.

Yvonne Lynch

For tour dates, tel: 0171-403 9316

## Waiting for Godot

Tottering bipeds have toured the UK and overseas since 1990 to praise and critical acclaim. Their latest production of Samuel Beckett's *Waiting for Godot* looks certain to continue the positive reactions.

Beckett's play is about Vladimir and Estragon, two tramps who while away a meaningless existence, where hardly anything changes –

which explains why both acts are essentially identical, with several minor changes, but always ending in the cyclical motif of "waiting for Godot", Who never arrives.

Having previously seen a large scale West End production of *Godot*, it was a real pleasure to watch a cast I did not recognise do full justice to the play.

Jamie Beddard as Estragon left me quite awestruck. He has such presence that I had no time to consider director Katie London's ideas of a play infatuated with physical limitation. Simon Startin as Vladimir

was no less excellent.

Too much was made of the stars' disability in my press pack and, not sharing the idea that Beckett's work highlights physical and mental limitations which prevent the tramps escaping their situation, I did not find the disabled cast helped me uncover a new reading. The show was just a fine production by a fine cast.

Two disability angles occurred to me. Could *Godot* be seen as a "cure" for our respective disabilities? Alternatively, could *Godot* be social services?

Dan Batten

## Video top five

**1. THE NUTTY PROFESSOR** (CIC): Eddie Murphy in remake of this screwball comedy.

**2. CHAIN REACTION** (Fox Guild): Science action thriller.

**3. STRIPTEASE** (20:20): Demi Moore bares all.

**4. MICHAEL COLLINS** (Warner): Irish nationalist drama with Liam Neeson.

**5. TWISTER** (CIC): Hurricane-chasing drama with Bill Paxton.

Chart supplied by MIRB

## The Disability Rights Handbook - you can't afford to be without it!

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Published May 1997 price **£10.50** (post free) or **£6.50** (concessionary rate for people on benefit). Send order with payment to: **Disability Alliance, (Dept DW), 88-94 Wentworth Street, London, E1 7SA. Tel: 0171 247 8776.**

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## Radio

## Disability '97

April is the month for sowing seeds. So it was auspicious that the partnership between Talk Radio and Scope, to bring the awareness-promotion Disability '97 to the UK public, was launched on the 17th.

A day of lively debate took place over the airwaves, ranging across politics, attitudes, parenting, education and, last but not least, sex.

It heralded a year-long commitment by Talk Radio and Scope to programmes dedicated to disability issues, along with on-air promos of fundraising events and information on volunteering opportunities.

On the Paul Ross early morning programme, the Duke of Westminster, president of Scope, launched into a scathing attack on politicians for leaving disability off the election agenda. Quite right, too. *DN's* editor, Mary Wilkinson, also reviewed the national dailies.

Late morning, Scott Chisolm set about "dismantling" rather than "breaking down" the barriers with a mix of moving anecdote straight from the top-draw of Simon Bates and political comment from disability activist Tom Shakespeare.

"Being the parent of a disabled child" was Lorraine Kelly's lunchtime topic. Linda Potter and Stephen Aston, parents of children with cp, were guests. Linda came across as a real feisty character – always ready to fight for the rights of her (disabled) twins while ever cautious of being over-protective.

Tommy Boyd, in the siesta slot, lauded the merits of segregated education. His mock-laddishness and irate outbursts tended to reduce everything to school playground level.

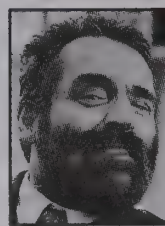
James Whale had all the right ingredients for a late night party – sex, a splash of music courtesy of Mik Scarlet's band *Eroticis*, ex-model Heather Mills, Mik Scarlet himself – and callers who seemed to be paid-up members of the Mik Scarlet fan-club. But it worked a treat.

Andy Kimpton-Nye

## Television

Chris Davies

I attempted to monitor as much of the Election coverage as possible,



presuming that this year the perspective of disabled people might have a more prominent place in mainstream footage – after all, 1997 has brought a blind man into the cabinet and two wheelchair-using candidates, one now an MP.

Over the six week campaign there were items about the black vote, the amount of women standing and those who wished to have nothing to do with the whole process.

If I missed something, I can only apologise and hide behind the sheer quantity of coverage.

The sad fact remains that I only saw two instances of disability being included by BBC news and current affairs. In the first *Question Time* to feature a party leader (10 April), Paddy Ashdown took a question from a speech impaired wheelchair user. The second occasion was on polling day, when the campaign was over. The BBC1 *One O'clock News* ran an item by Peter White about access to polling stations.

Hopefully, five years of a new government will educate news journalists into different agenda.

Regretfully, it is still the case that we have to rely on our own specialist programmes to get a realistic disability perspective on events such as the Election. All three currently broadcasting had Election Specials: *From the Edge* (BBC2, 8 April) *Link* (ITV, 20 April) and *See Hear* (BBC1, 27 April). All did a great job, but my prize goes to *From the Edge*. It made a very precise effort to include those who are usually excluded: disabled people who are less active, less articulate and less self-motivated.

Unless disabled programme makers do this more often, when the next campaign comes along it will be the same activists who are prominent.

I have already praised Sky 1's *Early Edition*. One of the three co-stars is a visually impaired black woman with a central role. On 15 March, ITV began the series; on 12 April, it showed what proved to be the last – replaced by *Baywatch*.

That just shows you the priorities of ITV, governed by ratings. You can see something similar in *Eastenders*. Ben isn't deaf (too much of a challenge?) and Joe is schizophrenic (easier to sensationalise).



# Win tickets to the Royal Tattoo and The Royal Tournament

With summer holidays coming up, here's your chance to win some super outings.

DN has 15 pairs of tickets, worth £40 a pair, to the "World's largest military airshow", The Royal International Air Tattoo.

(Children can go for free if accompanied by an adult).

The show, organised by the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund, will be held at RAF Fairford in Gloucestershire, 19-20 July.

This year sees a tribute to the 50th anniversary of the United States Air Force. Other attractions include 50 Years of Supersonic Flight; Fighter 97, a first ever gathering of international fighter, air

defence and AWACS aircraft, and a contest to find just who is the best fighter pilot taking part.

DN also has 6 pairs of tickets, worth £23 a pair, for another dazzling spectacle, The Royal Tournament, now in its 107th

year. Held as usual at Earls Court, London, this year's tournament includes the

famous Royal Navy field gun competition, the musical drive by the King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery – and tv's Gladiators. Over fifty Maori dancers from New Zealand will be performing traditional tribal displays and urging you to join in.

DN has tickets for Thursday 17 July and Saturday 26 July.



Above: Sailors in action at the Royal Tournament. Below: The Red Arrows Aerobatic Team will be displaying their spectacular skills



Due to demand, wheelchair tickets are for the Saturday only. Wheelchair platforms are in central locations and users must be accompanied by an able bodied friend. All other seats are in the front two rows of the balcony, accessed by about four steps.

To enter either special offer, send your name and address to Disability Now, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ, marking your entry either RIAT or RT. For those entering the Royal Tournament offer, please state whether you need wheelchair seating or not.

The closing date for both offers is Friday 20 June.

These offers are not open to members of DN staff, or their associates.

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## What's in DN next month?

- CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW**  
Blooming lovely! (left).
- OUT AND ABOUT** Make your summer go with a swing.
- MOBILITY ROAD SHOW**  
An eight-page preview of this unmissable event.
- COPING WITH PAIN**  
Stories and tips.

Plus the best news, views, jobs and offers. On sale 30 June.

# DisabilityNOW

DN has Whitbread Leisure Vouchers to give away to the first 10 new readers to subscribe with this form.

Worth £10 each, the vouchers can be used at a variety of popular outlets, from sport and food, to hotels, including well known names such as David Lloyd Leisure, T.G.I. Friday's restaurants and Travel Inns.

Vouchers will be dispatched after the closing date of 30 June 1997.

### Subscription form

To subscribe, fill in this form and return it with a cheque (payable to Disability Now) to: Disability Now, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ, or alternatively phone our subscriptions hotline, on 0171-383-4575.

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2 copies £44, 3 copies £66, 4 copies £80, 5 copies £100, 6 copies £120, 7 copies £140, 8 copies £160, 9 copies £180, 10-50 copies £200, 51-100 copies £225, 101-150 copies £250. One year (12 issues) only





## Writing wrongs

Lois Keith aims to give her books realism, as Helen Gregory discovers

Writer Lois Keith is fed up with reading about fictional disabled characters who die tragically or are miraculously cured.

She was determined that *A Different Life* would be a realistic account which disabled and able bodied people alike could relate to or appreciate. And she succeeds.

Her first novel tells the story of Libby Starling, a 15-year-old girl who becomes disabled after

being ducked in the sea on a school trip.

Libby is given advice by her parents and a host of professionals, but with her friends she launches the Use Your Imagination campaign to fight for her right to return to school, insists on not being patronised and starts to live a new, different life.

"I've read a lot of fiction about disability and the character either dies or is cured. I wanted a central character who has all the problems a teenager has."

Lois sees parallels between books about black people 20

years ago and those about disabled people now. "White authors would write about black characters, but it wasn't the same unless it was written by a black person. It's the same with disabled characters."

The character of Libby is, she says, based on a disabled woman she had once met. She also "emotionally borrowed" from various sources including her two teenage daughters.

The emotions and moods which Libby has were surprisingly easy to remember, says Lois, who wanted to portray the teenager as finding independence through her wheelchair.

"I didn't want to make it a book about issues, but I did want to make the point that using a wheelchair doesn't mean giving up."

The character goes through a realistic rite of passage – physiotherapy, rehabilitation, and dealing with negative attitudes – and even has to cope with the media.

Libby willingly undergoes a tv interview in a bid to raise awareness about the dangers of sea sewage but is furious when she unwittingly becomes a figure of pity, portrayed as a "tragic victim" to boost ratings.

"Libby goes through a bloody awful time and I didn't want to be unsentimental and shy away from that."

Lois, 47, lives in London and has been a wheelchair user since 1985 when she was

involved in a car accident.

She teaches English part-time and takes creative writing workshops. She also edited *Musn't Grumble*, a collection of writing by disabled women, which won the Mind book of the year award in 1995.

Lois finds writing enormously satisfying and is now at work on a book about the portrayal of disability in children's literature.

"Wheelchair athlete Tanni Grey read *A Different Life* and told me the story was so familiar it could have been written about her. That's quite rewarding."

*A Different Life* costs £5.99 from bookshops, or through the Women's Press, 34 Great Sutton Street, London EC1V 0DX, tel: 0171-251 3007.

## Special offer

We've got 30 free memberships worth £10 each for the Women's Press Book Club to give away. The club gives you the chance to buy mail order books by women authors, including a range of disability titles, at reduced prices. Send your name and address to *DN*, address on page 2. The first 30 entries to be picked out will win. Closing date: 30 June.

Offer not open to *DN* staff/associates

## Videos

**Hope on the Horizon**  
Free from by the Multiple Sclerosis Society, tel: 0171-610 7171

This short but informative video is a very welcome publication for all those with MS who have questions about both medical advances and the management of the disease.

While there is no cure for MS, the film does, as its title suggests, raise some hopes for the future. At the same time it indicates the possibility of some relief in appropriate cases without falling into the trap of raising false hopes by being too prescriptive.

Through careful scripting and editing, it neither seeks to over-sensationalise the success of the drug Beta-interferon nor to claim its suitability as a management tool for those with MS.

By exploring the symptoms and current physical conditions of the "subjects", it is able to bring alive the true impact of a

drug which, as it freely admits, has only been licensed in this country for about two years – so, early days and no real indication of the long-term effects of its use.

While the end users are the best commentators on the product, some medical weight is added to the mix by the neurologist Dr David Bates. He points out that the video does not advocate a method of self-prescription since there is no substitute for talking to one's specialist.

Overall, then, this video represents a well-balanced portrayal of one of the most exciting developments ever in the management and control of MS – no sensationalism but good straight facts about the use of Beta-interferon, its side-effects and effectiveness to date – all those taking part recognising that, although it has completed trials, the drug has not yet stood the test of time.

One thing is certain however, one must give the thumbs up to this piece of work.

Keith Pusey



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# Motability's spring bargains

David Griffiths reports

With Noel Muddiman firmly in the driving seat at Motability, it would seem we are beginning to reap the benefits of the new regime.

From barely a suitable vehicle near a bargain price, drivers and passengers alike are about to be spoiled for choice.

These vehicles in Motability's May listings are on contract hire for no deposit: Nissan Micra Shape 3-door, Renault Clio P111 1.4 3-door, Nissan Micra Shape 1.0 3-door, Peugeot 106 1.6 3-door, Hyundai Accent Coupe 1.3 3-door, Nissan Micra Shape 1.0 5-door, Toyota Starlet and Vauxhall Corsa Merit 1.4 3-door. Whilst for just a quid under £50, you can have a 5-door Peugeot 106 auto.

The choicest pickings must be the Accent, with its capacious bootspace and stylish lines, and Toyota's smooth little eye-catching Hatch. All have power assisted steering except the Nissan Micra Shape 3-door.

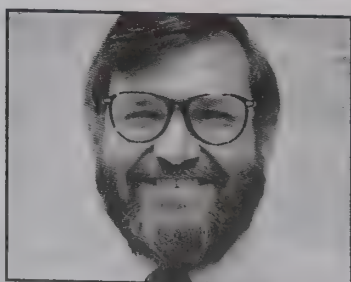
For those who don't need power steering but like good load-carrying facilities, a £50 downpayment brings you the Escort 1.3 Estate, and there are three Astra Estate models at £300.

Deposits for rear-entry wheelchair carrying vehicles remain unacceptably high, however, with a deposit of over £11,000 required for a converted VW Sharan. Rear-entry vehicle users also face an 18 month wait for financial assistance. There's a lucrative second hand market to be trawled, if you have the patience.

Mazda is now offering a selection of vehicles through Motability for purchase or contract hire. Models offered include the MX3 (£2,000 for one of the prettiest little road burners around), but you could still get style for nothing with the Hyundai Accent Coupe.

The Mazda comes with 60,000 miles warranty, and history has shown them to be the most rust-free and long lived of the Japanese imports. You could take advantage of Motability finance and Mazda discounts and opt for purchase. More information from Graeme Fudge, Mazda UK, tel: (01892) 513454.

A rumbling exhaust suggests we shall see Honda joining soon, whilst Renault's much-hyped semi-automatic 5-speed Clio should be available by June.



by Adrian Stokes

An informal meeting of disabled motor drivers was held in the offices of the "Disabled" Society, 48 Grosvenor Square at 6pm on 20 April 1922.

The first Minutes said: "It was decided to form a DDMC (Disabled Drivers' Motor Club) to look after and further the interests of Disabled Drivers... Mr Garrard proposed that all disabled motor drivers should be admitted as members of the Club... Mr Grain moved that the Club should consist of all drivers of cars and cyclecars of all calibres... The rules were discussed and adopted... The secretary was instructed to write and alert the Press asking all disabled motor drivers to communicate with him."

A month later it was agreed that "the entrance fee should be 10/6 and the membership subscription £1.1s." Now there is no entrance fee and the subscription is only £8.

This year the DDMC celebrates its 75th anniversary. The major event will be a Freedom Festival at Beaulieu, home of the club's president Lord Montagu, 7-8 June. It will also celebrate the freedom that disabled drivers now enjoy, due largely to the efforts of the club.

The club's first major triumph

# 75 years ago...



DDMC founder member Norman Fielden used to race his Austin on the famous Brooklands circuit

was in the late 1920s. A proposal that disabled drivers should not be permitted to hold licences was embodied in the Road Traffic Bill.

The club held a series of "publicity trials" intended to demonstrate the abilities of disabled drivers. It also lobbied the Government strongly (and at one point proposed that the club should be the examining authority for disabled drivers).

These efforts paid off when the Bill became an Act in 1931 and contained a principle still in force today: that the sole arbiter of a person's ability to drive should be the driving test (except for certain specific "bar" disabilities).

In addition, the club was

formally recognised by the Government as being the organisation representing disabled drivers.

The club has continued to represent those interests most vigorously and has been involved with many, if not all, policy changes affecting disabled drivers, for example, the removal of VAT from hand controls, the phasing out of the invalid tricycle, the setting up of Motability (DDMC's current chairman is a founder governor of Motability) and the changes in disability allowances.

Over its 75 year history, the environment in which the club works has changed dramatically. Nevertheless, there is still a strong need for

the club as shown by its latest campaign, "Give us back our parking spaces", aimed to remove abuse of parking spaces reserved for disabled drivers.

The DDMC, "the original and still the best" organisation for disabled drivers, looks forward to its centenary.

*Admission to the Freedom Festival is free. Among the attractions: test drives of adapted vehicles, a vintage style fair, falconry and, on Saturday evening, opera, line dancing and Falklands War veteran Simon Weston. Ticket hotline: (01275) 836465.*

*Dr Adrian Stokes is chairman of the DDMC.*



## The New Volkswagen Caravelle by Invatravel Conversions



Various options of wheelchair access available on this super new model, including:

- underfloor electro-hydraulic lifts
- hydraulic lowering rear suspension with spring assisted alloy ramp
- manual ramps, etc

Disabled driver options for full independence.

Prices start from £17,425 on the road excluding all taxes from which disabled users are exempt.



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## Disabled Drivers Freedom Festival

(Beaulieu, Hampshire)  
7th - 8th June

Celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the Disabled Drivers Motor Club and sponsored by Vauxhall Mobility, the Freedom Festival is free to disabled visitors with concessionary rates for children and teenagers.

In addition to all the attractions of Beaulieu, the Palace House and Gardens, the National Motor Museum and the 13th century Abbey, the Freedom Festival offers a Vintage Fair, The Wheelchair Challenge, Motor Cavalcade and Lifestyle Exhibition. You will be able to test drive an adapted vehicle, watch a falconry display by one of Britain's leading experts, Jemima Perry - and look over one of the latest Brotherwood Automobility converted Volkswagen Sharans.

The southern heat of the RAC Response 1997 Disabled Driver of the Year Competition takes place on Saturday, followed by the Big Bash Barbeque, comedy from the G&S Society, line dancing and Beating The Retreat with special guest, Falklands hero Simon Weston.

To register for your free ticket, call the Disabled Person's free ticket service on (01275) 836465 weekdays between 9am - 5pm.

## Freeing the Whittington Spirit

Westminster City Council has chosen a Brotherwood Automobility converted Volkswagen Sharan as official transport for the new Lord Mayor of London and Lady Mayoress who is a wheelchair user.

The Brotherwood converted Volkswagen Sharan will be used exclusively as mayoral transport to functions throughout the year's extensive social calendar and will do much to raise the profile of the wheelchair user in and around the City of London.

The Lord Mayor's one year term of office represents a demanding programme of events and a fitting test for the dependability and functional elegance of Brotherwood technology and craftsmanship.

Unveiled two years ago, the Brotherwood Volkswagen Sharan conversion incorporates a host of exclusive innovations from the drawing boards at Brotherwoods which have become key elements in the vehicle's success story. The same innovations are now available on the full range of front wheel drive versions of the Ford Galaxy, Seat Alhambra and Volkswagen Sharan.

## At the top of the transfer list

The unique features of the Brotherwood Automobility Transfer Beam, which enables a disabled or elderly passenger to enter and exit a car while remaining seated, can now be utilised by owners of Ford Galaxy, Volkswagen Sharan and Seat Alhambra vehicles.

The Transfer Beam's double rotation action enables the front passenger seat to rotate within the car while the beam sweep extends the seat outwards placing the passenger clear of the vehicle in one simple effortless operation.

The Brotherwood Transfer Beam uses the car's original seat and maintains the original seating position. Fitting of the seat can be undertaken by Brotherwoods factory

Phone: Brotherwood Automobility Ltd. 01935 872603 for details.

## A Side Step we're proud of

Already in service on hundreds of vehicles nationwide, the Brotherwood Slimline Electric Step is proving a fine combination of state of the art technology and quality assurance.

Intended for use on minibuses and MPVs where a high sill height makes access a problem for people with a walking disability, the Electric Step is constructed entirely in stainless steel and nylon to combat the most inhospitable of year-round underbody environments.

The push-button operated Brotherwood Slimline Electric Step incorporates an automatic retract safety feature if the vehicle is driven away with the step out.

Fitting of the step can be undertaken by Brotherwoods or supplied as a kit and fitted locally by a reputable garage.

## New for 1997 - Bespoke BROTHERWOOD Tallboy Conversion for Volkswagen Caravelle



Wheelchair users seated tall in their chairs will appreciate the full 60 inches of headroom offered by the new Brotherwood Automobility Tallboy conversion of the Volkswagen Caravelle.

Degrees of customer compatibility only available in a bespoke product are evident in the attention paid to the restraint of the wheelchair and a

wheelchair passenger seatbelting system tailored specifically to the individual user.

Customers requiring that something extra in a vehicle conversion can specify their own personalised seating plan.

Retaining the original roof, passenger seat height and vehicle suspension were major considerations incorporated by the Brotherwood design team.

Equally important, the Tallboy Conversion requires no lowering system and is quick, simple and easy to load with a shallow counterbalanced ramp.

The same level of engineering excellence and close collaboration with the vehicle manufacturer that ensured the success of the Brotherwood Automobility converted Volkswagen Sharan has set an unparalleled standard for the 1997 Brotherwood Tallboy.

## Converted Vehicle Insurance

Brotherwood have launched a very competitive Motor Insurance Policy underwritten by Commercial Union for any client owning one of their vehicles converted for the transportation of a wheelchair bound passenger.

Customers may also qualify for an introductory bonus where purchase is a second car.

For details contact:  
Thomas & Co.  
Tel: 01929 462700

## Crowthorne Mobility Roadshow 11th - 13th July

The Department of Transport's Mobility Road Show, the largest mobility event in the UK calendar, returns to Crowthorne in Berkshire in July.

As befits an event of paramount importance, Brotherwood Automobility Limited will be displaying their new, custom-built conversion of the Volkswagen Caravelle and launching their dynamic new small vehicle conversion.

After an extensive development period commencing June 1994 and its debut at the 1995

Mobility Road Show the first fully converted Volkswagen Sharans were delivered to customers in May 1996, and at this year's Mobility Road Show the vehicle No.100 will be handed over to the Woking branch of the M.S. Society, replacing their 8 year old Brotherwood converted Nissan Prairie.

While Brotherwood converted Volkswagen Sharans are already setting new standards for quality built, top of the range conversions for wheelchair passengers, their new small vehicle design brings renowned Brotherwood versatility and innovation to the economy end of the market.

Whatever your requirements in a vehicle conversion,

you will find something to match your individual needs and budget on the Brotherwood Automobility stand at Crowthorne.

If you would like to know more about Brotherwood conversions or you are interested in good quality pre-owned vehicles, hire, leasing or finance, the company will be pleased to help.

Home demonstrations can usually be arranged or you may prefer to visit the showroom and factory.

The people at Brotherwood welcome visitors and are always pleased to discuss individual needs. With designers and engineers working together on site the company can truly claim to offer a comprehensive and competitive service - all under one roof.



Phone: Brotherwood Automobility Ltd.  
Tel: 01935 872603 for details.

## Watch this (compact) space

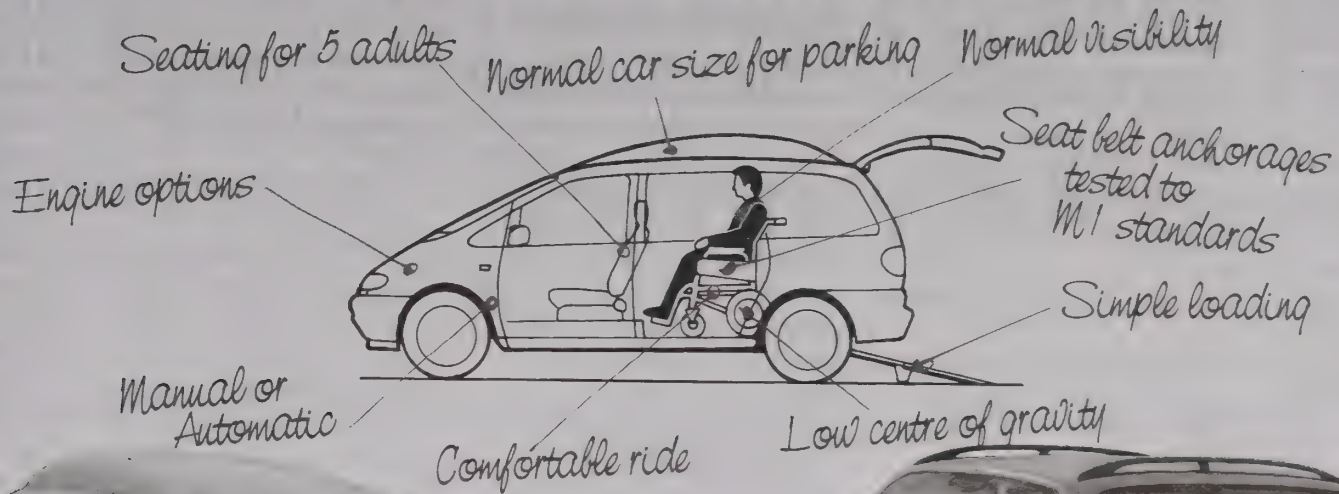
Currently under development with its first public appearance now only weeks away, Brotherwood Automobility is soon to unveil a new, small vehicle conversion for wheelchair passengers that will cost as little as £16,000.

Based on a popular MPV featuring power steering and automatic transmission as standard and taking-up less space than many medium-sized saloon cars, the conversion fills the niche in the low headroom-up to 50 inches. A vehicle to suit the smaller wheelchair user with all the refinements of more expensive MPV conversions.



# Ford, Seat or Volkswagen Value & Quality

The 100th conversion of these versatile vehicles will be handed over at the Mobility Road Show July 1997  
for the wheelchair user



On the road price from  
**£24,492.28**



The new infill seat fits between the two rear side seats recreating the original back seat configuration of the car.



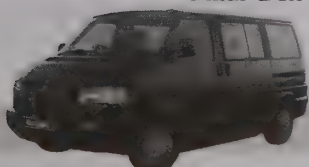
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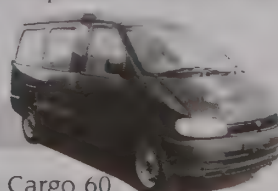
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New for '97 the VW Caravelle



Nissan Serena



Nissan Cargo 60



New for '97 the 'Compact'  
see it at the Mobility Road Show





*Dear Ann*

- love and loneliness
- bereavement
- personal problems
- advice and support

## NEW HELPLINE NUMBER

DN's telephone counsellor Lin Berwick can give disabled people and carers advice and support on personal and spiritual problems. Disabled herself, Lin is a psycho-therapeutic counsellor and fully accredited Methodist local preacher. Talk to her on (01787) 882111 (from 1 May) on Thursday afternoons, 1pm-5pm and Mondays 6pm-10pm.



Sponsored by BT

Send your letters to: Ann Darnbrough, *Disability Now*, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ

### Disabled children are all different

I am proud to say that my little girl Cynthia is very happy in her special school and making good progress.

Her disabilities include cerebral palsy and trachea-oesophageal fistula. She also has learning difficulties.

I am writing to you because I simply cannot understand the blinkered view of those people who say that all disabled children should be attending mainstream schools.

Cynthia could not survive in an ordinary school, even if there were reasonable back-up services.

I am being realistic. What matters to me is that she is happy and making progress – even if it is slow. I am proud of her achievements.

Surely every child's educational needs and environment should be determined by the best provision for them as individuals, and not by some ideological yardstick.

In the past serious mistakes were made when many disabled children were inappropriately sent to special schools. But in putting that right, let's not be stupid by making life impossible for the minority of children who need specialist care. It really is stupid to treat all children the same.

*Zara, London*

I am so glad that Cynthia is making such good progress and enjoying school. I must say that I agree with you. It always worries me when people argue there is only one way to do something. At the very least it demonstrates a lack of imagination and at worst ignores that we have very individual needs.

Certainly, we want to ensure that as many children as possible go to mainstream schools, but we also need to ensure that children who need exceptional personal care have the very best attention, stimulation and education that

we can provide in a sheltered environment.

### Amputees should wake up to reality

In February you printed a letter from a woman leg amputee who had had an unhappy experience with a man apparently attracted to her only because of her stump.

I do think your answer was useless and patronising – little more than "watch out and better luck next time".

As someone who has suffered all my life with this fetish, I wish I had an answer for your correspondent.

Without sounding like a male chauvinist, I would say she must be very naive in taking a man into her bed and expecting her stump to have no effect on him.

I cannot believe she had no idea his urge, excitement and passion was due, if only in part, to her stump.

I have slept with amputees and other disabled women, and can assure you they were under

no illusion as to my reasons and needs. I would like to say to her that she may feel uncomfortable having only one leg but she can change her mental attitude if she makes friends with this part of her body.

*Tom (anon)*

Thank you for explaining your own sexual needs and feelings which involve women amputees. Well, now, who's being patronising?

As women we always have to take care in the relationships we enter into and sometimes we make mistakes, so even on reflection I think my advice wasn't so bad: "Just polish up your sixth sense and look out for the warning signs (of men who may only be interested in your stump). But don't get too nervous – that's no way to live. Mistakes are the stuff of life."

### Groups that heal

As editor of *Overground*, I wrote to you some time ago when the subject of devotees (men who are attracted to women who have had an amputation or who have some other disabilities) was brought up in your column by a woman who had a bad experience with a man who may have misled her of his intentions.

I said then that I would in no way condone such behaviour.

However, I am writing to inform you that a very significant development has taken place. Groups of women amputees have formed in the USA and have taken the initiative of inviting groups of the men attracted to such

women to meet at social gatherings.

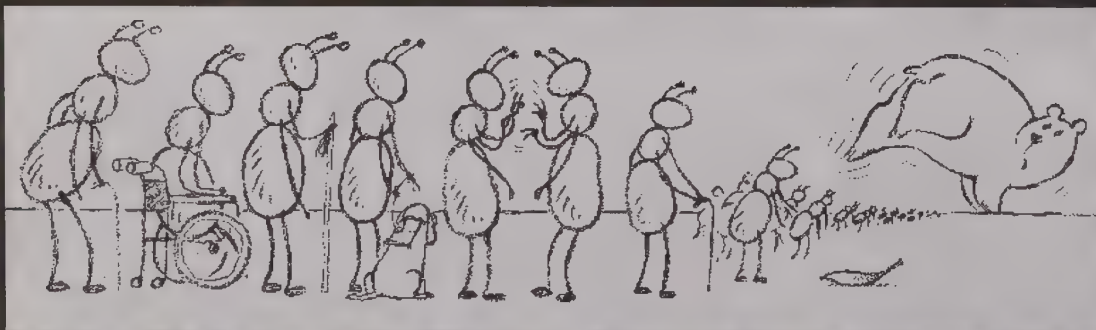
Providing group support, the women share experiences, comparing the happy and the unhappy experiences and everyone has the opportunity to reassure each other. One group, ASCOT (the Amputee Support Coalition of Texas), also accepts that some of the men who are attracted to women amputees like to look at pictures of them and the members provide these. The founder, Jam, has been so successful in America, spawning related groups such as Limbless in Seattle, that she is planning to expand the group to the UK.

*John, Aberdeenshire*

I was interested to hear from you again and thank you for sending details of ASCOT.

It does seem important that there should be a better understanding of the emotions that are stirred up by this subject. As in so many areas of life, if we can all be more open with each other, we stand a much better chance of finding happiness and mutual understanding.

*Overground* (a support group for those who are attracted to others who have physical impairments and for those who attract us), Nether Ardgrain, Ellon, Aberdeenshire AB41 8RA. Internet site: <http://www.ardgrain.demon.co.uk/overground/> ASCOT-World, 9680 Admiral Callaghan Lane #180, Vallejo, CA 94591, USA. Internet site: <http://www.neosoft.com/~ascot/>



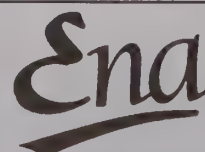
**UNISON—campaigning for equal rights for all**

**Fourth National Delegate Conference Brighton Centre, 10 to 13 June 1997**

**Make sure your branch delegate knows the issues that concern disabled people**



For more info on UNISON membership and services contact:  
UNISON Equalities section, 20 Grand Depot Road, London, SE18 6SE. Tel: 0181 854 2244 Fax: 0181 316 7770 Text phone: 0181 854 6335



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Your stars

**TAURUS** (21 April-21 May) A flash of inspiration in the first week of June could be followed by frustration. Don't give up on your heart's desire. Just allow yourself enough time to let it become a reality.

**GEMINI** (22 May-22 June) Feelings run high in early June but wait until your ardour has cooled around the 8th and you have had time to think things through before you communicate your feelings.

**CANCER** (23 June-23 July) Towards the end of June you will be able to express ideas that have been developing for some months. Don't act too soon. Speak out after the 23rd



By *DN's* astrologer Marion Stanton

and be sure of your ground before you do.

**LEO** (24 July-23 Aug) After a tense start to the month, an inspired idea could take you places in June. You are moving but you have a while to go before you can make a reality of the good ideas that are forming now.

**VIRGO** (24 Aug-23 Sept) You will either be consolidating your plans or wishing you'd prepared yourself better for this month. Mercury will square your sun which suggests challenges for better or worse.

**LIBRA** (24 Sept-23 Oct) Mars enters your sign on the 20th bringing an extra burst of energy just when you need it most. This month could see you fulfilling dreams that looked impossible only four weeks ago.

**SCORPIO** (24 Oct-22 Nov) The stresses and strains you have recently been experiencing are still being felt but the worst is over. Lie low for just a few more weeks and you will begin to pick up a better perspective on life.

**SAGITARIUS** (23 Nov-21 Dec) The full moon in your sign on the 20th could be the inspiration you have been waiting for – or a delusion. This will depend on how much work you have been putting into giving yourself time to think. If you have prepared yourself

well, ideas could pay off.

**CAPRICORN** (22 Dec-20 Jan) Oppositions usually herald arguments and difficulties but the opposition of Mercury and the sun to your sign could give you the impetus to take action and spice up your life, especially if romance is your objective. It won't be plain sailing but you can be sure it won't be dull.

**AQUARIUS** (21 Jan-Feb 19) Jupiter is stationary in your sign this month which will make you a little more concerned about giving and taking. It wouldn't do you any harm to sit back and wait for

others to take the initiative for a change. Make no offers and wait for the gains.

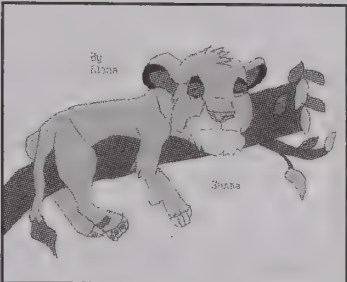
**PISCES** (20 Feb-20 Mar) You begin this month with good intentions and lots of ideas, only to feel blocked in the middle of June. But you will be suprised by how easily you can complete the seemingly impossible by the end of the month.

**ARIES** (21 Mar-20 Apr) This is not the month to challenge your loved ones. You might feel hard done by, but arguing is likely to lead you up blind alleys rather than sort your problems out.

Cartoon fun on the pc!



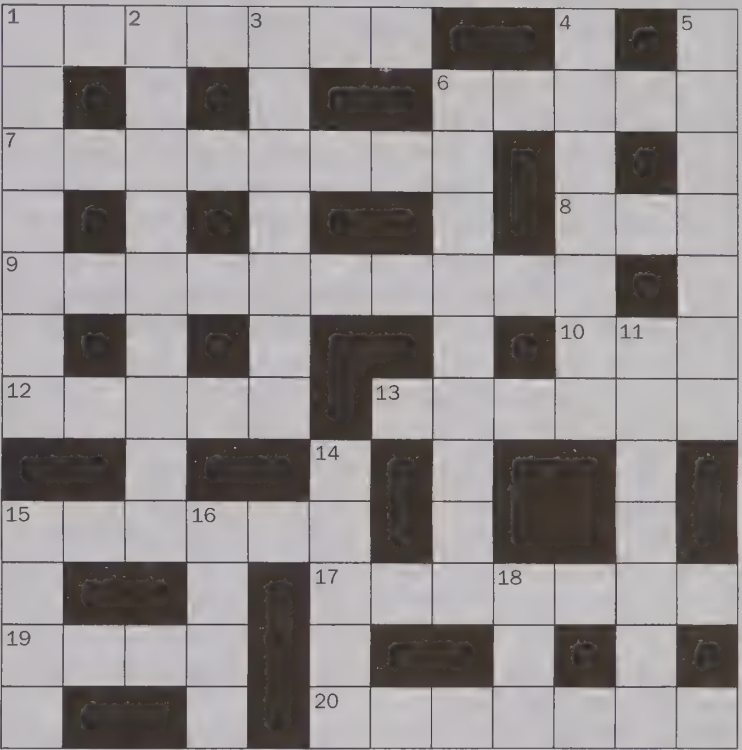
These wacky computer characters have been created by 13-year-old Alana Wadkin, of Crosby, in Merseyside (pictured above). Her parents wrote to *DN* to tell us of her creative skills. Alana has severe athetoid cp and cannot walk, use her hands or sit up without support. None of this has thwarted Alana's artistic talents. She uses



an Apple Macintosh computer with a neck switch to draw some of her favourite Disney cartoons. The pictures can take up to three weeks to complete but Alana makes time to draw each one after her schoolwork, for which she uses the same computer system.


DN's crossword

Answers on page 30 COMPILED BY REBECCA REYNOLDS



- ACROSS**
- 1. Full of longing (7)
  - 6. Conscious (5)
  - 7. Dire fair (anag)
  - 8. Drawing, painting etc. (3)
  - 9. Teen riding (anag)
  - 10. Frozen water (3)
  - 12. Mount a vehicle (3,2)
  - 13. French philosopher (6)
  - 15. Distress call (6)
  - 17. Mouth doctor (7)
  - 19. Access aid (4)
  - 20. Undistinguished competitor (4,3)

- DOWN**
- 1. Disability-allowance (benefit) (7)
  - 2. Agile (9)
  - 3. Number between one and twenty
  - 4. Obsessive enthusiast (7)
  - 5. Polite and cultured (7)
  - 6. Lane drain (anag)
  - 11. Card game (7)
  - 14. Many-headed monster (5)
  - 15. Greater amount (4)
  - 16. Fooled person (4)
  - 18. Also (3)



**SHIFTING THE BALANCE -**  
a major health & social care exhibition  
University of Southampton  
25th-27th June 1997

This major healthcare exhibition is dedicated to promoting independent living and is organised in conjunction with the College of Occupational Therapists' 21st Annual Conference.

**ADMISSION TO THE EXHIBITION IS FREE**

This exhibition is open to disability groups, people with disabilities, carers, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, social workers and other health and social care professionals.

Visit this major health and social care exhibition and take the opportunity to:

- discover what the market has to offer from manufacturers and suppliers of a wide range of products and services to promote independence.
- discuss specific areas of concern with experts available in a special advice area.

If you wish to visit the exhibition please call 0171 207 9646 for your complimentary invitation or complete the form below. Visitors may register on the day.

☐ Please send me \_\_\_\_ entry tickets to Shifting The Balance Exhibition.

☐ Please send me further information regarding the conference

Name: \_\_\_\_\_


Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Town: \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return form to: Conference Department, College of Occupational Therapists, 6-8 Marshalsea Road, London, SE1 1HL. Direct lines: Tel: 0171 207 9646, Fax: 0171 207 9614.

DN6/97



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## What's on

**At Home with Dementia** is a national conference at the Stakis Glasgow Grosvenor, 2 June. For more details, contact Alzheimer Scotland Action on Dementia, tel: 0131-225 1453.

**Practical Aspects of the Disability Discrimination Act** is a seminar at Eversheds' London Office, 4 June. Contact Tracy Bonner, tel: 0171- 919 4612 for full programme details.

**Mobility Roadshow**, Crowthorne, Berkshire, 11-13 July. Something for everyone interested in getting on the move. For more details, tel: (01344) 661010.



**DAVID (5) AND SARAH (4)**

David and Sarah are a brother and sister who need an adoptive family together, where their very different needs can be met. Although David is well attached to his foster family, in general he is a 'loner' who prefers to play by himself. He is an energetic child, who is very responsive on a one-to-one basis but is hard work to look after. He has some developmental delay and although in mainstream school is not making much progress there. Sarah is a happy loving child who is extremely active! She has Noonan's Syndrome: a heart condition has been successfully treated but her speech and over-all development are quite delayed, although she continues to make progress. She attends a special needs nursery. David and Sarah need an experienced two-parent family where they can be the youngest children. An adoption allowance might be available. Please contact Margaret Phillips on 0181-592-4500 (London Borough of Barking and Dagenham Social Services Department).

## Scope national conference/exhibition

The UK's largest disability charity, Scope, is planning a national conference and exhibition 6-8 November 1997, in Blackpool. The conference will have a mix of seminars and workshops covering key disability issues (more information next month).

The new exhibition, *All Round Ability*, supported by DN, is expected to become an annual event. It will feature information, products, activities and opportunities for people with all types of disability, their families, carers and professionals.

For further information about the exhibition, contact the organisers, Maria Adderley and Associates, tel: 0181-293 5903 or use the coupon on page four.

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## Info

The Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB) has produced a comprehensive series of *Your Benefit* booklets to help people through the maze of state benefits. All three are available in large print, braille, tape or in Moon. Contact RNIB Customer Services, tel: (0345) 023153.

The Playday Steering Group is organising a national Playday on 6 August when children and adults across the country will be encouraged to make time for play. For information and a Playday Info Pack, contact the Playday Hotline free on (0800) 581951.

## Look out for

Artsline/Stoke Newington Midsummer Festival Comedy Benefit are holding a benefit night, *What an Assembly!* on 16 June at the Assembly Rooms, Stoke Newington. For details, tel: 0171-388 2227.

Upstage 97 presents a two week festival of workshops (16-28 June) and performances by some of London's deaf and disabled artists. Contact Turtle Key Arts Centre 0171-385 4905.

## Help!

Artists are wanted who work in all types of media to contribute to an exhibition 21 July-16 August at the Lawrence Batley Theatre in Huddersfield. Send photographs and slides with measurements and dimensions to Murray Forrest, Lawrence Batley Theatre, Huddersfield, HD1 2SP. Contact Alison Crouch on (01484) 430528.

Nick Earnshaw wants to offer his help with holidays and outings for disabled people. Mr Earnshaw has already worked with the 3H Fund in Tunbridge Wells. Contact him at Flat 5, 2 St Martin's Avenue, Scarborough, North Yorkshire YO11 2DD.

### CROSSWORD ANSWERS

Across: 1. Wistful 6. Aware  
7. Rarified 8. Art  
9. Ingredient 10. Ice  
12. Get in 13. Pascal  
15. Mayday 17. Dentist  
19. Ramp 20. Also ran  
Down: 1. Working  
2. Sprightly 3. Fifteen  
4. Fanatic 5. Genteel  
6. Adrenalin 11. Canasta  
14. Hydra 15. More  
16. Dupe 18. Too



For sale

**G REG DISABLED** drivers 1.6 Escort, EST hand controls, wch crane, dvrs lift, many extras. £3500. 0181-594 1754.

**Gimson Stairlift**, almost new, 14 stairs with 2 bends. Bargain at £2000 ovno. North London, 0181-482 7246.

**Interceptor heavy duty powered** wheelchair, carries 36st. Upholstered reclining seat. 6mph, 20 miles range, new batteries. Adjustable arm and leg rests. £2000. (01543) 277657.

**Nissan Prarie SLX Estate**, J reg, CC1974. Two tone blue, fitted with Constable electric wheelchair passenger seat front. Excellent con. Full service history. £10,500. 0181-337 1330

**Powertec F50 wheelchair** kerb climber and extras, £1400 ono. Also a narrow manual one ideal for boat or caravan, £35. Birmingham 0121-747 4764.

**Cowal wheelchair roof** hoist lifting system to car roof, operated from car battery. Very sturdy for all weather conditions. Originally £1700, now £500 ono. Somerset (01823) 274703.

**Car seat.** Passenger rotating for Vaux-hall car. Tel (evenings): (01267) 275306.

**Chiltern Medical Orthopaedic** shower/wc. Full working order when dismantled. Left by previous owner. £2000 when new, £1200 ono. Buyer collects it. Tel: (01932) 563613 (Surrey).

**Lark 4 electric scooter.** One year old with battery charger, cover, and driver' cape. £1800 ono. 0181-852 6378.

**Risser recliner chair**, electrically operated plus massager. Excellent condition, hardly used, cost £1900 new, £550 ono. Tel (01424) 422791, East Sussex.

**ELAP rotating driver's seat.** Hardly used, £250. 01367 240602, Oxfordshire.

**Pace saver three** wheel mobile chair. As new cost £1600, accept £800 ono. (01494) 813339, Bucks.

**Sunrise medical 'Sprint'** electric pavement wheelchair. Right hand operations, battery recharger, adjustable leg supports. Very good condition, £1500. Tel 0181-684 5013, day/evening.

**Lark 4 scooter.** Never been used, bought July 96 for £2395, offers considered. 0161-973 9189.

**HNE Explorer wheelchair**, 1 year old. Cost over £3000 new, £1800 ono. (01386) 831007 (Evesham).

**Peugeot Talbot van**, 1.5 litre petrol, A reg., lowerable back axle with ramps, new MOT, £1295 ono, 0181-529 3367.

**Chilton self-contained** combined shower and toilet with wheelchair access. Good condition, £295 ono. 0181-303 6236, Bexley Heath, Kent.

**Subaru Legacy**, 4 wheel drive, saloon automatic, 1990, 2.2 litre. Hand controls, switchable gearbox, too fast for me! £3500. Tel (01246) 452032 after 5.00pm, Derbyshire.

**Swede elite manual** sports wheelchair, 18" fully adjustable, 2 years old, immaculate, £895. 2ft 6" electric adjustable bed, £350. Electric armchair lift and reclining, beige, £150. Tel (01234) 300213.

**Wheelchair lift** for van side door. Braun Swigaway model. Only needs 30" clearance. £1500. Herts, Tel (01442) 874187.

**Car swivel travelseat** 180 degrees by Carmobility, £450. Tel: (01865) 862717 (near Oxford).

**Bec Stirling scooter XL** with batteries, £950 ono. Tel: 0181-898 5430.

**Electric wheelchair cruiser 4E**, indoor-outdoor, dual control, reclining back, kerb climber, tray, cost £3250 March 96, now £1500. Tel (01425) 402278.

**Levo stand-up wheelchair**, electric mechanism, Roho cushion, tray, cost £3791 May 94, asking £1200. Tel: (01425) 402278 (New Forest).

**Castle Camelot** beige delux power arm-chair, £450. Tel: (01923) 465739.

**VW Caravelle 2 OGL** 1991. Spacious 7 seater, wheelchair clamps fitted, 70,000 miles, latest model, metallic blue, alarm, central locking, MOT Dec, full service history, 1 previous owner. VGC, £9450 ono. Tel: 0181-788 1243.

**Whirlpool walk-in bathtub** with shower and whirlpool spa, 2 years old, original price £2800, asking price £950 ono. Tel: (01784) 454278 after 7.30pm.

**Sunrise Medical powertec** F6 seat, 16" w x 18" d. Folds flat for easy storage in car boot. Powerpack & batteries, easily and quickly dismantled. Manual wheels also included. Cost new £2500. Used only half dozen times, bargain at £1250 ono. Tel: (01458) 833060 (Glastonbury).

**Sterling Midi scoota** with charger. Dismantles for travel, excellent condition, £1,100. tel: (01327) 351015.

**Carters Power wheelchair**, new battery, battery charger, £600 ono. Tel: (01733) 252732 (Cambs).

**Ford Fiesta Chairman** car, automatic, MReg, white, £13000. Tel: (01543) 481361.

**Hemco chair, electric**, reclining and rising to standing position, light brown draylon, as new, original price £795, will take £450 ono. Tel: 0181-381 4479 (Southgate).

**Ford Escort** wheelchair carrier 1990 (H), lowering system, extra seat, 33,000 miles. Tax/MOT, immaculate, £6750 ono. Tel: (01747) 820567.

**M Reg Renault** Extra 1.4cc car derived van under 7000 miles FSH specialist coach work with full wheelchair access, ramp and electric winch, 4 seats, excellent condition. £8950 ono. Tel: (01246) 826949.

**B Reg Metro** Chairman, good condition. £1200. Tel: 0181-655 4378.

**Elap car seat.** Rotate and pull out. Base for Rover 400. £200 ono. Tel: 0161-980 8811 (Manchester).

**Astra Auto Estate** 1987 Pas F&J, hand controls, adjustable seat, HT, sunroof, towbar, long MOT service history. £1500. Tel: 0181-303 5542 (Bexley).

**1991 Battery car** £600. Good condition, 4-wheeler, includes charger. An excellent all-terrain vehicle. Tel: (01962) 732838.

**Alvema 300 wheelchair**, ex lg with accessories, unused, cost over £2000, sell £1250 ovno Tel: (01243) 551499.

**HNE Explorer Elec** wheelchair, 1 year old, cost over £3000 new, £1800 ono. Tel: (01386) 831007 (Evesham).

**Peugeot Talbot Van** 1.5 litre petrol, A Reg, lowerable back axle with ramps, new MOT, £1295 ono. Tel: 0181-529 3367.

**Winchester Hydraulic bed**, plastic covered mattress, cot sides, nearly new £400 ono. Tel: (01295) 810990.

**Elap swivel passenger** car seat to fit Lada Riva £225. Tel: (01977) 514963.

**Fenland holiday bungalow.** Newly purpose built for people with disabilities. Tel: (01945) 870936.

**Constables carchair system**, consisting battery operated wheelchair in/outdoor, charger, hydraulic lift, good condition, £1500. Tel: (01723) 891426.

**Nissan Versa 1992** J Reg, 35K, 5 seats plus ramps and clamps for wheelchair passenger. Red. VGC, £3995 ono. Tel: (01474) 325866.

**Poirier Roller Supreme** manual wheelchair, unused. Tel: (01453) 825298.

**Bakare electric adjustable** bed, antipres-sure mattress, massage relax system, £1550 ono. Parker Knoll electric recliner £750 ono. Westholme electric ceiling hoist 2.5 track (unused) £550 ono. Alder-sey premium wheelchair with charger £1500 ono. All nearly new. Suit tall person. Tel: (01524) 761095 (Nr Lancs).

**Ford Fiesta 1.1** litre K Reg 10 000 miles, Balliol blue, excellent condition, adapted for lefthanded stroke victim, power steering, £5000 ono. Tel: (01245) 265629 (Essex).

**SML portable hoist** with new spare pump, £300 ono. Burvill car-top hoist with full fitting instructions £300 ono. Portable changing bench used by osteopaths, ideal for holidays £30 ono. Tel: (01904) 634397.

**Chrysler Voyager 90-92** wheelchair adapted electric door, ramp, good condition, & price. Tel: 0171-354 5948.

**Motorhome Chausson G** Reg adapted for wheelchair, 4 berth, 25000 miles, all extras £11,950. Tel: (01371) 850266.

**Rifton standing frame** E79. Fully adjustable for child 30" to adult 68" tall. As new, £420. Tel: (01252) 512628.

**Fiat Fiorino 1986** C 54,000 miles rear chair entry. £2500. ono. Tel: (01705) 733680 (Portsmouth).

**Leader 4 scooter** 4-wheel, little used, complete with battery charger and rain cape. Condition as new. Cost £2300, December 96. Offers tel: (01732) 357220, ansaphone, evenings.

**QED Fortress electric** wheelchair, 6 months old, unused. Electric recline, tilt in space elevating leg rests, cost £10128, will accept £5000 ono. Tel: (01892) 524531.

**Mini Metro chairman** wheelchair accessible car. 1988 E Reg. 1275cc low floor shallow ramp. Excellent visibility. One owner from new, 12 months MOT. £3000. Tel: (01803) 812260 (Devon).

**Electric scooter 4-wheel** sovereign shoprider, hardly used, cost £1695 accept £800. Tel: (01403) 711266.

**Sovereign shoprider 889** electric scooter, 4 12" wheels incl charger frame and canopy. Bought April 96. Sale due to bereavement, cost £2800, will accept £1500 ono. tel: 0161-330 2828.

**Volker home nursing** bed. Due to bereavement, BaKare Bed, only six months old £1500 ono. Akron electrical height adjust physiotable, hardly used. £650 Tel: (01367) 860674.

**Sterling mobility scooter.** £1200 when new, used once, accept £700 ono. Tel: 0171-515 4261 after 6pm.

**Electric tricycle, unused**, fast and fun, can use through pedal power or electric. Suit wild child or adult. Beautiful, forward, reverse, accept £1000. Tel: 0171-242 4546.

**Barmol 2 bathlift**, unused. Works perfectly, will accept £350. Tel: 0171-242 4546.

**Ford Transit automatic** PAS J 1992, side loading lift floor restraint, smooth drive carpeted, 90 miles FSH £5250. Tel: 0171-242 4546.

**Large hand propelled** WRK trike. Tyres in need of attention. Free to anyone who will collect. Please contact Ann Cooke on (01273) 446017.

**Chair electric recliner**, excellent condition, £550 or near offer. Tel: 0181-907 7271 (Kenton, Middx).

**Elap rotating seat** £200. PAS H-pull hand controls £50. chair hoist £30. All suitable for Peugeot 205. Tel: 0171-700 0646 weekdays after 6 or weekends.

**Electric scooter £800.** Fully reclining chair £800. Electric rising chair £80, all less than half price, nearly new condition. Tel: (01932) 241549 (Middx).

Wanted

**Stairclimber device / attachment** to suit manual wheelchair. Tel: (01222) 624229.

**Reel to reel tape** decks for group work. Donated please. For new therapy. Tel: 0181-771 3971. Mr E Gillam, 2 Harold Rd, London, SE19 3PU.

**Terry step lift** wanted please ring (0976) 208023 or 0161-793 8689.

Job wanted

**Fully qualified carer** seeks permanent position with a disabled person in S. London. Hours/Pay negotiable. References held. Please call 0181-689 4671 (ansaphone).

Accommodation

**Accommodation to rent.** Must be adapted for a wheelchair user. Anywhere but the Avon area. Joy Jones, 24 Castle Court, High Street, Thornbury, S. Gloucestershire, BS12 2XN.

**Holiday Accommodation Canaries**/island for winter 97 for party of 6 with 1 wheelchair occupant, must be level and have suitable bathroom. Ring Trevor Watson: 0191-3841488.

**Ground floor flat**, Gloucester 2 miles. 2 beds, choice of 2 heating systems, garage. Suitable for ambulant disabled person. Attractive and convenient area. Gardens. Tel: (01452) 612546.

**Adapted double fronted** 4-bed house Kingston. Large kitchen/family room, 2 reception, wheelchair accessible shower, vertical lift, CH, garden, garage. £210K. Tel: 0181-948 1520.

Personal

**Polio disabled lady**, aged 62 years young. Is there a polio male or female who, like me, is needing to grab what is left of life (if you have had polio you will know what PPS means - post polio syndrome). I live near the New Forest, am about to get a car, again. I have a spare bedroom - want to join me? Box No. 055

**Man 44 years** old, French, cp. Graduated in public law, living on my own. Likes literature, travel, nature. Searches for an English girl for penfriendship and wedding contact. Box No. 056

**Attractive white boy**, outgoing and friendly, aged 17, with spina bifida. Wheelchair user, would like to hear from penpals, either sex, aged 16 to 21 anywhere. Many interests including computers and music. Box No. 057

**Female aged 38**, wheelchair user. Can drive, car owner. Have got kidney failure. Would like to write or meet males of same age. Likes TV, travelling. Also deaf and have spina bifida. Box No. 058

**Disabled 65 years**, 5ft, 6 1/2 st, lonely, caring, housebound, no ties widower, outdoor wheelchair user. Looking for lady 50/65 years, same as or similar, to come and live in cosy, quiet council bungalow. With all found for sincere, honest person. Will collect from anywhere, looks don't matter. I'll take a chance! Will you? I am good for many years yet. Reside Rochdale, please reply soon. Box No. 059

**I am a young** Coventry man with ms and have to use a wheelchair. I do not drive, but do own a Pope mobile. I would love to meet a young, fit lady 30+, who has a clean, full driving licence, to be a friend and enable me to get out and enjoy life to the full. Box No. 060

**I've got lots** of good things in my life, but I want a special man to share them with. I'm female, 40, disabled and live in London. Box No. 061

**Indian Male 34** years old, slightly disabled, seeks mature female 18 to 45 years old for long term loving relationship. Interest/hobbies - travelling, listening to music. Disability of the companion is not a problem. London area/anywhere. Box No. 065

**For personal ads please send a cheque or postal order for £5 payable to Disability Now with your ad. This is to help cover our costs.**

**Lonely 'Free' Agent**, 57 years young, 5ft 1, very cuddly. Own place, own car, solvent, Gravesend, Kent. My disability is osteo-purosis, so I walk with sticks. Is there any one looking for a happy go lucky smoker, who loves to read, travel, drive, who's into all music. Eat in or out, I'm a fair cook, but very lonely. Must love dogs and will try most things 'like this ad'. Box No. 062

**Classic car enthusiast**, 43 yr. Happily married man seeks classic car enthusiast to correspond or visit shows. Box No. 063

**Can I win** your heart! Attractive, intelligent lady, young looking 40. Driver. Generally happy and fun to be with. I can walk but use a wheelchair for socialising. I enjoy the cinema, theatre, music and much more. I would love to meet an unattached, able-bodied, educated, sincere and cheerful man of similar age to share our interests. Please write with photo, which I will return, and be pleasantly suprised! Preferably London/S.E. Box No. 064

**I am a 37** year old disabled lady. Wheelchair user, fun loving, always smiling, with 2 lovely boys aged 13 & 15. I like going for outings. I own a car, but unfortunately through car accident can't drive it, hence wheelchair. I also go to college to do different courses, especially woodwork. I hold an NNEB certificate. Need man 35+, disabled or not, able to drive, for friendship, possibly relationship. Box No. 066

**Lively vegetarian 23**, enjoys music, socialising and swimming. Seeks easy going male 24-34, non-smoker to enjoy fun days out and cosy nights in. P.S., I am blind. Box No. 067

**Pleasant lady, 54** years old, inherited disability. Mother of two grown up sons, looking for mature gentleman for lasting relationship. Box No. 068

**Male, 48 and** single, below the knee amputee seeking lady for a caring relationship. Hobbies include the countryside, motoring, eating out etc. In the Cardiff/South Wales area. Box No. 069

**Eclectic 40 year** old, single man with mild MS, wltm attractive woman for friendship/relationship. Interested in music, films and conversation. London. Box No. 070

**I have ME** and suffer from one of its symptoms - that of feeling the cold to extreme - even with layers of clothing. My whole life is so affected. I would be so grateful to hear from anyone as to how I might overcome this difficulty. It would be such a relief! Box No. 071

**29 year old female** with arthritis and Crohns disease, looking for female friends to meet and drink tea with. I am married with a cat. No do gooders, religion or radicals, I am no activist. I just like tea, telly, pain free times, radio, books, chatting, animals and theatre when well enough to attend. Empathic, good sense of humour, any age, disabled or not welcome to reply. Southport area. Box No. 072

**Ladish 37 year** old, slight disability (arthritis), looking for lady similar age/disability with GSOH to behave badly with. Box No. 073

**To reply to a personal ad indicate the Box Number and mark the envelope Private and Confidential. If you do not, it will be opened. Send to DN, address on page 2**



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80,000 people for just £4 a line.  
All small ads must be paid for  
in advance. If you want to  
advertise, please contact  
**Disability Now** at, 12 Park  
Crescent, London W1N 4EQ, or  
telephone 0171 636 5020.

**Did you know that**  
**Disability Now** is available  
on tape? For details,  
contact Subscriptions at  
16 Fitzroy Square,  
London, W1P 6LP or  
telephone 0171 383 4575.

**TO ADVERTISE YOUR  
VACANCIES/COURSES**  
Please contact the  
Advertisement Director,  
Richard Gresham,  
Kingslea Press Ltd,  
12 Dock Offices,  
Surrey Quays Road,  
London SE16 2XU.  
Tel: 0171-252 1362  
Fax: 0171-237 8019.

### For sale

 \* Walking sticks \* Rainwear \*  
Tyres \* Batteries \* Grab rails \*  
Scooters \* Wheelchairs \* Riser  
chairs \* Stairlifts etc etc  
Equipment bought and sold  
Sales, service, hire  
**D & K Mobility**, 62, Hollybush Road,  
Gravesend, Tel: 01474 353837 Mon-Fri 10-5  
Sat 10-3. Closed Thursday.

### Disabled and on a budget?

- FREE mobile phone\*
- FREE connection
- FREE 40 minutes of calls every month
- FREE anywhere in UK next day delivery

Offer also open to those on benefits. If you  
would like the extra freedom and security of  
mobile communication, telephone:  
Cellphone UK: 0181 669 7110 or  
0410 570 791 (for brochure).

\*Offer subject to status and signing of a 12 month  
airtime contract. Line rental is £14.89 per month.  
Phone is returnable within 14 days if unsatisfied.

## Recruitment (continued on page 33, 34 & 35)



### LEEDS CITY COUNCIL SOCIAL SERVICES

**ARMLEY RESOURCE CENTRE**, Armley Grange Drive, Leeds 12  
**RESOURCE CENTRE OFFICER (DEVELOPMENT)**  
Ref: RDC 622

SCP 18 - 23/25 £11,874 - £13,977/£14,892 (progression beyond £13,977  
dependent upon relevant qualification).

The aim of Armley 'Resource' Centre is to provide support and resources for disabled people  
and to create a situation where disabled people can be empowered to have greater control,  
choice and integration.

The Centre offers workshops and groups on disability issues, and is also involved in  
developing new initiatives such as the Peer Support Service, and an Information Service as  
part of a move towards a Centre for Integrated Living.

The purpose of the development post is to support, facilitate and empower individuals and  
groups of disabled people in Leeds, assisting in improving access to services, integration and  
organisational development.

#### The main duties of the post are:

- Establishing contacts with disabled individuals and groups within Leeds.
- Facilitating such groups in accessing resources and information.
- To assist disabled people in achieving control over services for disabled people.
- To support effective networking between groups of disabled people.
- To work within anti-oppressive strategies and the social model of disability.

#### You will need to be able to:

- Have had experience of involvement in a disabled people's group/organisation.
- Liaise with a range of individuals and groups.
- Work on own initiative and have effective time management.
- Have an understanding of community development.
- Work occasional evenings and weekends in order to facilitate meetings etc.

ARC is part of Leeds City Council and is allied to the disabled peoples movement. For -  
further information, or a centre visit please contact the Centre on Leeds (0113) 2310428  
(Tel/Minicom).

Closing Date 5 June 1997.

For application forms and job outlines please ring our answerphone service (24 hours) on  
Leeds (0113) 247 7965 or apply in writing, enclosing a large self-addressed envelope to  
Director of Social Services, Selectapost 9, 110 Merriam Centre, LEEDS, LS2 8QB.

"WORKING TOWARDS EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY"

The City Council encourages a No Smoking Policy  
POST SUITABLE FOR JOB SHARING

### VW Caravelle CL

8 seats, 2.4 diesel, M reg., 95 model  
tracking, Interbilty HBC 200 electric lift  
to rear, swivel front seats, electric  
windows. £10,500. Tel: 01794 511300  
days, 01703 283086 evenings (Hampshire).

### COTSWOLD COTS

Build cots and Beds for Adults and  
Children with Special Needs

We Design And Build Any  
Cot or Bed You Need.

**New Products** Extra Strong Playpens.  
Extra Large Stairgates.  
Fitted Padded Play Areas.  
**High Quality** Fair Prices  
Information Phone 01993 842885



Lightweight Wheelchairs  
Spares, Servicing & Repairs  
Powerchairs and Scooters  
Homecare Products  
Personal Service  
Credit Cards accepted  
Phone for a Catalogue:  
**01252 547939**  
or visit our showroom  
43 Alexandra Road, Farnborough,  
Hants GU14 6BS  
Ramp at rear and free car park  
A company run by the disabled  
- for the disabled!

### Holidays

#### WINGED FELLOWSHIP TOURS

Overseas holidays for people with disabilities.  
Holland. Eire. Channel Islands. France. Switz.  
Norway. Czech. Majorca. USA etc. Prices include  
flights, travel in adapted vehicles, accessible  
accommodation, nurse/couriers. Also UK budget  
"Discovery" holidays. All destinations accessible.  
Brochure from Gary Day: 0171 833 4579 ext. 122.

#### Holidays in France for disabled people

##### AUBERGE DE LA TOUR

Small family run farmhouse/guesthouse in  
rural France, Loire Valley/Vendee area.  
English qualified nurse proprietor. Respite  
care available on request. Adapted minibus  
for transportation.  
For brochure contact Mr & Mrs Bartlam,  
40 Rue St Eloi, Courlay, 79440 Deux Sevres  
France. (00.33) 5.49.72.25.37. or English tel.  
contact Heather Bacon. 01395 267084.

#### GLEBE FARM HOLIDAYS SELF-CATERING COTTAGES FOR THE DISABLED

Glebe Farm, Charles Brayford,  
Nr. Barnstaple, North Devon EX32 7PT  
Telephone: 01598 710241  
Open all year. Wheelchair accessible.  
Equipment available.  
Please contact: Valerie Boddington

#### SOUTH WEST WALES

Luxury caravans (one specially designed for  
wheelchair users and their families).  
On beautifully situated, friendly family run  
park, 250 yds from sandy beach. Heated pool.  
Bar/restaurant. Games room, Sunrise  
Bay Holiday Park, Llansteffan, Carmarthen,  
Dyfed, SA33 5LP. Phone: 01267 241394

#### CANUTE COTTAGES CHICHESTER HARBOUR

2 Wheelchair Friendly cottages in perfectly lovely farm  
setting, with access to private waterfront. Wheelchair  
footpath with superb views over harbour.  
Ideal for birds, boats, artists, peace.  
For brochure Tel: 01243 574 990

#### "Campus" Holidays - Cambridge

Self catering breaks for  
independent/semi-independent tourists  
in Cambridge. Accessible rooms. Level  
access/wheelchair height amenities.  
Adjustable toilets/basins. Parker bath.  
Shared kitchen. Wide corridors/electric  
doors. Shared use caravan. CTV.  
Payphone. Personal help buttons.  
Wheelchair charging. Mobile hoists.  
Adjustable beds. Volunteer support.  
For brochure  
01223 311416.

**NAISH HOLIDAY VILLAGE:** Clifftop park  
with "excellent" status, New Milton, Hampshire.  
Excellent site facilities within 100 yds. with  
indoor/outdoor pools; restaurant, bar, take-away.  
Fully equipped, two bedroom, fully wheelchair  
accessible log cabin accommodation. Sleeps 6, well  
furnished. Free club membership.

#### GRANGE COURT HOLIDAY VILLAGE:

Park with "good" status, Goodrington Sands, Devon.  
Excellent site facilities within short walk, with  
indoor/outdoor pools, restaurant, bar, take-away.  
Fully equipped, 2 bedroom, fully wheelchair  
accessible mobile home. Sleeps 4-6, well appointed.  
Free club membership. (Purchased with funds from  
the National Lottery).

#### MILDENREATH HOLIDAY VILLAGE:

Excellent seaside site with good facilities, just  
outside Looe in Cornwall. Restaurant, clubhouse,  
indoor pool. Fully equipped and wheelchair  
accessible 2 bedroom chalet accommodation. Sleep 6  
- well furnished and comfortable. Free club  
membership.

Details: Mr P. Cash 01425 672055 - Bournemouth  
Spina Bifida Association, registered charity No.  
261914.

### For sale

## Powerchairs

Est 1982

MOBILITY CONSULTANTS

**New and Nearly New, Electric  
Wheelchairs, 3 and 4 wheel  
Scooters, Lift/Rec Chairs,  
Beds, etc.**

All models wanted and for sale.  
**The right one to suit your needs.**



**Ring Free anytime**  
**0500 357 496**  
**or 0121 353 7975**

All major credit cards accepted



Free advice,  
delivery,  
collection, all  
areas covered.  
Fully guaranteed.

## THE WHEELCHAIR WAREHOUSE



#### THE LARGEST CHOICE

##### IN THE UK FOR

Manual Chairs - Power chairs - Scooters -  
Sports wheelchairs

#### THE ONE STOP SHOPPING SOURCE

Run by disabled people for disabled people

#### SALES, HIRE, REPAIRS & MODIFICATIONS UNDERTAKEN

All makes - Impartial advice given

Home visits available - Free trials

All guarantees honoured

#### MOTABILITY

#### FINANCE AVAILABLE

Reasonable  
rates



The masters  
of mobility

**0181  
569 8955**

Units 1-4,  
Shield Drive, Brentford,  
Middlesex TW8 9EX

### Courses



## MSc/Postgraduate Diploma Disability Management in Work and Rehabilitation

Are you interested in disability and employment? Keen to broaden your  
expertise? Aiming to upgrade your qualification?

Our flexible modular programme includes:

- disability management at work
- vocational rehabilitation
- disability and employment legislation and service development
- research modules

You can:

- select individual accredited modules and study half a day a week over  
ten weeks, or
- gain a Postgraduate Diploma by taking eight modules and
- complete your MSc with a research project

Places are available from October 1997.

A few partial bursaries are available for MSc or Diploma applicants.

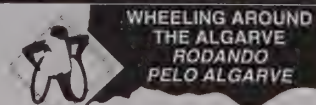
**This programme is sponsored by the Post Office.**

For further information and an application form, please contact  
Munling Shields at the Rehabilitation Resource Centre, City University,  
Northampton Square, London EC1V 0HB.

Tel: 0171 477 8378 Fax: 0171 477 8356. Email: rrc@city.ac.uk Ref: DN.

**Teaching and research excellence in London**

### Holidays (continued on page 33)



Self Catering villas and cottages, hotels, B&B, car hire  
with hand controls, adapted vans, etc. Scuba Diving  
courses and other sporting and leisure facilities.  
David Player, Wheeling Around The Algarve,  
Apartado 3421, 8136 Almancil, Portugal.  
Tel: 00 351 89 393636  
Fax: 00 351 89 397448

#### ORLANDO, FLORIDA

HOUSE WITH A HEART FOR DISABLED TRAVELLERS!  
SPACIOUS, LUXURY, ADAPTED BUNGALOW SITUATED ON  
GOLF COURSE. 3 DOUBLE BEDROOMS, 2 BATHROOMS  
(MANGAR BATHLIFT INSTALLED), CABLE TV, FREE LOCAL  
TELEPHONE CALLS, FREE COUNTRY CLUB MEMBERSHIP.  
24 HOUR 'ON CALL' MANAGEMENT COMPANY.  
15 mins ORLANDO AIRPORT, 20mins DISNEY.  
PARAPLEGIC OWNER.

SUE FISHER, 5 PARK LANE,  
BROUGHTON PARK, SALFORD M7 4HT  
TEL/FAX: 0161 792 3029



## Holidays

### PENROSE BURDEN NORTH CORNWALL

#### "1992 Holiday Care Award Winners"

Holiday Cottages designed for wheelchair users and their families. Rural setting with superb views, Dogs welcome. Wood burning stoves and daily meal service. Please ring or write for colour brochure. **R&N Hall, Penrose Burden, St Breward, Bodmin, Cornwall PL30 4LZ. Telephone Bodmin (01208) 850277 or 850617.**

### THE STACKPOLE CENTRE

UNIQUE HOLIDAY COMPLEX ON THE SOUTH PEMBROKESHIRE COAST FOR FAMILIES, GROUPS & INDIVIDUALS: SELF CATERING, COTTAGES, GROUP HOUSES & HOTEL (Wales Tourist Board 3 Crowns Highly Commended) POOL, JACUZZI, THEATRE, RESTAURANT, ART, POTTERY & MUSIC ROOMS, OUTDOOR, ACTIVITIES. WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE LEVEL 1. For info & Holiday Pack Tel: 01646 661425 Fax: 01646 661456

### Blagdon Farm Country Holidays

#### Devon/Cornwall border

Superb, south-facing, wheelchair accessible luxury bungalows overlooking lake and set within 38 acres of glorious countryside. Many on-site facilities, including tea room/shop. Take-away meals and equipment hire available. Tourist Board Highly Commended.

For colour brochure please contact:

Pauline and Tony Blight, Blagdon Farm, Ashwater, Beaworthy, Devon EX21 5DF. Phone: 01409 211509. Fax: 01409 211510.

## NOW

## AVAILABLE

### SELF-CATERING & HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

Specially designed for disabled people.

IN THE U.K., IRELAND, EUROPE & U.S.A.

Telephone:

**01708 863198**

and speak to:

**Tony or Josie**

### JUBILEE LODGE - Essex

Purpose built holiday centre. Epping Forest, Cambridge. Southend nearby. 26 single en-suite rooms, 5 twin rooms. CTV. Motorised hoists. Bar. Conservatory. Coffee lounge. Visits/entertainment included. Help Buttons. Nurses/volunteer support. Social Services registered. From £235 pw. For brochure call: 0171 833 4579 ext. 132.

### SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS

#### Nethybridge in Strathspey

Two beautifully restored forest village cottages, fully inspected, personally run, and enjoyed by many wheelchair users since 1994. Peaceful, spacious, warm and very well equipped, including wheel-in shower, telephone, dishwasher, and open log fire. For full domestic details and Access Guide to local area - Contact Mrs Valery Dean. Tel/Fax: 01479 821642

http://freespace.virgin.net/valery.dean/

### S.E. SPAIN

Purpose built ground floor holiday apartments. Two bedrooms, pool, patio area, shower chair, hoist. Towels/Linen included.

Sandy beaches, relaxing and pleasant holiday for Disabled person and their Carer.

Please write/phone/fax: Lisa Fowler, RAYMAR, Unit 1, Fairview Estate, Reading Road, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon RG9 1HE. Telephone: 01491 578446; Fax: 01491 413741

### Have Fun, Fun, Fun!

#### "SKYLARKS" - Nottingham

Purpose-built holiday centre re-opens in August after £1.6m refurbishment. 26 single en-suite, 5 twin rooms. Electric hoists. CTV. Hydro pool. Bar. Help buttons. Free trips/excursions. Nurses/volunteer support. Prices from £245 pw - including food/care. For brochure, please tel: 0171 833 4579 ext 132.

### SOUTH WEST WALES

Luxury caravans (one specially designed for wheelchair users and their families). On beautifully situated, friendly family run park, 250 yds from sandy beach. Heated pool. Bar/restaurant. Games room, Sunrise Bay Holiday Park, Llansteffan, Carmarthen, Dyfed, SA33 5LP. Phone: 01267 241394

**Brittany Cottage** to let. Fully adapted for wheelchair use. Good access to beaches. Sleeps up to 6. Details **C. Hodgson. Tel: (01924) 454300.**

## Recruitment (continued on page 34 & 35)

## ACCESS OFFICER

Salary up to £19,782 pro rata

20 hours per week

At Aylesbury Vale District Council, we're committed to meeting the needs of the disabled and disadvantaged members of the community. We're fortunate enough to live in a beautiful environment and we're striving to make it as accessible as possible. For everybody.

As Access Officer, you'll spearhead our efforts. Through your liaisons with disability organisations as well as various authority departments, you'll raise awareness of access issues both within the Council and the community, in housing, the workplace, leisure facilities and transport.

Establishing design guidelines, you will help developers consider disabled access requirements. Travelling throughout the district, you'll carry out audits and compile reports and through a combination of your innovative ideas and sound negotiation skills, you will advise owners on ways to improve their premises and influence planning applications.

Ideally you will have a degree in a relevant discipline, however an ability to do the job is more important than formal qualifications. The post is initially part time with a desire for full time in the future.

An attractive benefits package is available.

Closing date: 23rd June 1997.

Interview date: 2nd July 1997.



AYLESBURY VALE DISTRICT COUNCIL

WE ARE WORKING TOWARDS EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY



The Council operates a Smoking Policy, with designated smoking rooms.

Application forms and job descriptions are available from: The Personnel Division, Aylesbury Vale District Council, Bearbrook House, Oxford Road, Aylesbury, Bucks HP19 3RJ. Tel: Aylesbury (01296) 555062 (24 hour answering machine) or (01296) 555023/555020. Minicom: (01296) 555055.

## Disability Officer

c.£10,000 per annum

(18.5 hours per week)

Following the Disability Discrimination Act we need someone to promote disability issues within the Borough. You will coordinate an audit of current council policies and practices and train staff in disability awareness. You may also assist in associated building adaptation projects.

To do this you must have experience of liaising with access groups and disabled agencies, experience of promoting and managing projects and a detailed knowledge of the Act and its implications for employers and service providers. Experience of the construction industry and planning legislation/building regulations would be useful. You must have excellent communication and presentation skills and be able to influence at all levels.

Based in the Building Control section, which is ISO 9002 accredited, this position is for 18.5 hours per week and is initially offered on a one year contract. Benefits include flexible working hours, performance bonus, car allowance, pension scheme and generous holiday entitlement.

Please telephone Aiden McManus on 01322-343238 for further information and an application pack. **Closing date: 30 June 1997.**

*Dartford is actively working towards equal opportunities.*

# DARTFORD

*Borough Council*

## Holidays

### St Leonards, Sussex

7 berth caravan adapted for disabled people on Haven Site.

For colour brochure, tel: Shepway MS. (01303) 251352

### Redroofs Holiday Flats

128, Latimer Road, Eastbourne, Tel 01323 643135

Near the sea front. All 3 flats furnished to a high standard. Two flats on ground floor. Central heating, hot water, linen, colour TV. Private parking. No VAT. Low season £90-£150 pw. High season £140-£280 pw. Please contact Mr. Cousins

### ASHWELLTHORPE HALL HOTEL

provides good access, specialist equipment in some rooms. All in a comfortable, friendly country house hotel set in several acres of natural grounds, nine miles from the ancient city of Norwich, offering excellent opportunities for exploring the countryside and coastline of East Anglia.

Book now for Autumn and Winter Breaks, Christmas and New Year. Ring 01508 489324

### SCOTTISH BORDERS

Delightful stone built cottages in beautiful surroundings. Tourist Board 5 Crowns/Commended and unassisted wheelchair access and S.T.B. Cat. 3. Sleeps 6. Ideal for family. Long weekend and short weeks available. Tel: 01450 860678.



## Disability Advocacy Network (Tower Hamlets)

DAN wish to appoint four staff, three DAN staff, and one to Tower Hamlets Coalition of Disabled People.

DAN is Tower Hamlet's Independent Disability Advocacy Service - and aims to give local people with disabilities choice and control of the services they require. Posts only open to people with disabilities. *We are now able to recruit THANKS to: National Lottery Charities Board, Joint Consultative Committee, ELCHA and Social Services.*

**MANAGER** - PO1 - £22,500 pro-rata (inc. LW) for 24 hours per week.

**GENERAL ADVOCATE** - SO1 - £19,300 pro-rata (inc. LW) for 21 hours per week.

**YOUTH ADVOCATE** - SO1 - £19,300 (inc. LW) full time. JCC Funded for three years.



### A VOICE FOR RIGHTS

#### USER CONSULTATION & DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

SO1 - £19,300 (inc. LW) full time. TH Coalition post. JCC Funded three years.

**CLOSING DATE:** 23 June 97 - 5pm / **INTERVIEW DATES:** 2, 3 & 4 July 97.

For information & application forms, contact: Marie Bryant, DAN, Disability Resource Centre, 40-50 Southern Grove, London E3 4PX or call on 0181 980 2200 (voice) / 0181 981 0337 (minicom).

### BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL

#### COMMUNITY EDUCATION SERVICE

## Disability Equality Project Worker

£17,625 - £19,818 (pay award pending)

Ref: UD227/DN

*A disabled person is required to establish, co-ordinate and develop a Disability Equality Youth Project to empower disabled pupils in a South Bristol school. You will need a good understanding of Disability Equality principles and have the ability to deliver learning programmes based on these. You will also have good organisation and groupwork skills.*

*The post has funding for two years, which may be extended.*

*The Council is an equal opportunities employer and particularly welcomes applications from disabled people who experience simultaneous oppression.*

For further details and an application form (CVs alone are not acceptable)

please telephone Bristol (0117) 922 2710, or write to The Recruitment Desk, The Council House, College Green, Bristol BS1 5TR, quoting the job reference number. Minicom users please telephone Bristol (0117) 922 4360 office hours only.

Applications should be returned by noon Friday, 27th June, 1997.

Interviews will be held on 14th July 1997.

**AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER**



## WFAD

Waltham Forest Association of Disabled People

### WALTHAM FOREST ASSOCIATION OF DISABLED PEOPLE

wish to appoint a disabled person as an

#### ACCESS GROUP CO-ORDINATOR

S.O.1 pt 29 for 18 hours a week (£9,583 inc. O.L.W.).

WFAD are seeking a dynamic person to develop, co-ordinate and support the activities of the Access Group in Waltham Forest; to undertake outreach work to ensure that membership of the group is representative of the whole community in Waltham Forest; and to perform a consultancy role on access issues.

#### YOU:

- must have an awareness and sensitivity to disability issues in their widest context and an understanding of how access barriers contribute to discrimination, in particular for disabled people, women, elderly people, children and people from all communities
- will have experience of working with both individuals and groups of disabled people in an empowering and consultative way
- will have experience of working directly on access issues
- will be able to organise and manage administrative and financial records; produce clear and accessible reports and
- will be able to participate in fundraising strategies and contribute to income generation through consultancy.

We also wish to recruit a

#### PERSONAL ASSISTANTS REGISTER CO-ORDINATOR

Salary £8,683 (scale 6) for an 18 hour week.

WFAD (Waltham Forest Association Of Disabled People) wish to appoint a disabled person to the above post. The P.A. register is an innovative project that will establish a register of personal assistants available for employment by disabled people.

Your responsibilities will include advertising for and recruiting personal assistants and maintaining the register. You will work closely with the existing Independent Living Project.

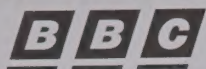
An understanding of Independent Living as a disability rights issue and a commitment to promoting choice and control for disabled people is essential.

#### THESE POSTS ARE ONLY OPEN TO DISABLED PEOPLE

The closing date for applications is Monday 30th June 1997. Interviews will be held during the week beginning 14th July. For an application form and information pack, please ring WFAD on 0181 509 0812 (voice and minicom) or write to WFAD at Units 13/14 Alpha Business Centre, South Grove, Walthamstow, E17 7NX. Information about these posts is available on tape. The WFAD office is fully accessible.

WFAD is an Equal Opportunities Employer.





Working for equality of opportunity

**DISABILITY PROGRAMMES UNIT****Production Trainee Scheme**BBC PRODUCTION  
LONDON

BBC Production is the most powerful centre of radio and television programme-making excellence in the world, employing around 4,000 staff. New digital systems will increasingly be at the heart of production and management, especially the exciting convergence at the desktop of programme-making technology and IT.

Alongside our programme-making activities, the Disability Programmes Unit runs a training scheme which aims to bring more disabled people into broadcasting.

We are looking for two Production Trainees to join us in the Autumn of 1997 and the Spring of 1998. Traineeships will be for two years with time spent in the unit working on *From the Edge*, British television's only prime time disability show, and on placements to other factual programme-making areas.

**To be considered for these traineeships you must have:**

- a perspective on life gained through your experience as a disabled person
- a burning desire to make factual radio and television programmes
- evidence of a real commitment to working in the media
- creative flair
- a broad educational background demonstrated either by formal qualification, private study or self education
- a wide knowledge of, and critical interest in, the output of the BBC including its disability programming
- a knowledge of current disability issues and general news and current affairs

The training salary is £15,730 per annum rising to £16,290 after one year (subject to satisfactory progress).

For further details and a special application form, contact BBC Recruitment Services (quoting ref. 24248/DI) by June 10th on 0181-849 0849, Minicom 0181-231 9231. Alternatively, send a postcard to BBC Recruitment Services, PO Box 10666, London W5 2FD, or e-mail [recserv@bbc.co.uk](mailto:recserv@bbc.co.uk) quoting ref. 24248/DI and giving your full name and address. Application forms to be returned by June 13th.

You can also see this vacancy on <http://www.bbc.co.uk/jobs/e24248.htm>

**BBC RESOURCES****Paid work experience opportunities for people with disabilities**

BBC Resources is pleased to offer once again a number of subsidised work experience placements for people with disabilities, following the success of a similar scheme last year.

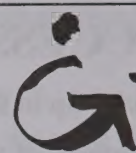
The placements cover a wide range of skill areas and will be based within various departments at different locations in and around the London area and in Cardiff. Each placement will be for a period of up to twelve weeks and it is anticipated that most will commence from July/August 1997 or thereabouts.

Please note that only people with disabilities will be considered for these placements and candidates will have to undergo a selection process.

Details are also available on audio cassette if required.

For further details and a special application form, please contact BBC Recruitment Services (quoting ref. 24329/DI) by June 13th on 0181-849 0849, Minicom 0181-231 9231. Alternatively, send a postcard to BBC Recruitment Services, PO Box 10666, London W5 2FD, or e-mail [recserv@bbc.co.uk](mailto:recserv@bbc.co.uk) quoting ref. 24329/DI and giving your full name and address.

You can also see this vacancy on <http://www.bbc.co.uk/jobs/e24329.htm>

**John Grooms**  
Housing Association

John Grooms is a national Christian charity providing independent housing for wheelchair users

**Senior Secretary**

Starting Salary: £14,000-£15,000 pa  
(progressing to £16,000 pa dependent upon performance)

We are seeking a self-starter for the post Senior Secretary to work for our Housing Manager and to oversee the secretarial and administrative provision within the Housing Management Department. Excellent administration and secretarial skills, preferably at a senior level, are required, along with experience of minute taking and good communication skills. Ref: HS/1

**Repairs Co-ordinator & Administrative Assistant**

Starting Salary for both posts: £12,500 - £13,500 pa  
(progressing to £14,500 pa dependent upon performance)

We are also looking to recruit a Repairs Co-ordinator and Administrative Assistant to provide support with the day-to-day repairs of the Association. Duties of the Repairs Co-ordinator will include placing orders with contractors and processing invoices. Candidates should have keyboard skills and a proven track record in administration. Knowledge of building maintenance would be an advantage. Ref: RC/1

The Administrative Assistant will also work in our Maintenance Department whose ethos is "to care for buildings to care for people". Good keyboard and administrative skills are required. Ref: AAM/1

Benefits include 5 weeks annual leave, an interest free season ticket loan and a generous pension scheme.

Closing date for applications: First post Friday 6 June 1997.

JGHA is a Christian charity and seeks applications from people with a similar Christian commitment.

*JGHA is moving towards being an equal opportunities employer, and would welcome applications from ethnic minority groups. Any disabled person who satisfies the job specification will automatically be given an interview.*

For an application pack (no CVs) please call the recruitment line on: 0171 452 2016 (answering machine), quoting the relevant reference number.

John Grooms Housing Association  
50 Scrutton Street, London, EC2A 4PH

Deadlines for July issue: booking for classified by 13 June; camera ready artwork/copy by 17 June.

**Disability Policy Officer****£21,030 - £22,563 p.a. inc. (Pay award pending)**

Our progressive approach is recognised London wide and nationally. In 1996 we hosted an Employment Conference, where participants said,

*"excellent"**"informative"**"an enlightened policy"*

We have improved access, rewritten our recruitment policy, set targets, acquired ES funding for recruitment, search and interview skills training and provided a supportive working environment. Our achievements are demonstrable but we still have a long way to go.

There is policy and practice to develop...training to source and deliver...successfully accessing funding sources at national and local levels...and, developing workplace employment initiatives. More research and data is required, as is strong advocacy throughout the Council and the community to raise awareness. Disability is high on the Council's agenda and we mean to keep it there.

Your personal experience of disability is essential as is experience of policy development and

implementation of disability legislation. Also vital will be your highly developed interpersonal skills to enable us to create an environment where members of the community and workforce have equal access to services and employment. If you feel able to take on the challenge and build on our current achievements we would like to hear from you.

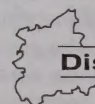
For further information and an application form please contact Business Support, Corporate Services Department, Civic Centre, London Road, Morden, SM4 5DX tel 0181 545 4033.

Minicom users only 0181 545 4172

Please quote ref: CX286

Closing date for receipt of completed applications: Monday 9th June 1997, 5pm.

It is the policy of Merton to guarantee an interview to all disabled applicants who meet the minimum criteria for the post  
All full-time posts are open for job share unless otherwise indicated.

**CREATING EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL**Promoting Equal Rights For Disabled People  
**Disability West Midlands****Freeing aspirations**  
**Mentoring Service**  
**Co-ordinator***New project for young people with disabilities***West Midlands****£16k-£18k**

This is a chance to head a brand new project funded by the National Lottery Charities Board. The first service of its kind covering the whole of the West Midlands, it aims to empower young disabled people to meet their aspirations, discover their potential and further their independence. For you it offers the chance to make a real impact in shaping and developing a high profile project.

Firstly you will set up a mentoring scheme. This will allow young disabled people to access a local disabled adult who will act as their mentor, helping them to achieve their goals, both personal and professional. You will publicise the service, recruit, train and support volunteer mentors and finally monitor and report on the projects success.

Ideally you need to have knowledge of the social model of disability and a wide knowledge of disability issues including legislation, services and benefits. Personal experience of disability desired but not essential.

The role will involve travel throughout the West Midlands and some evening work. This is a three year fixed term post based in the West Midlands.

For further details and an application form please contact Disability West Midlands, Moseley Hall Hospital, Alcester Road, Birmingham B13 8JL. Tel: 0121 449 1225. Minicom: 0121 442 2132. Closing date: 19th June 1997.



## Recruitment

DPPI

### National Information Service on Disability, Pregnancy & Parenthood

This important new project requires:

**Information Officer £20,457 pro rata 17.5hrs/wk**

To set up and run new information service, collate information from a wide variety of sources, produce information sheets, respond to enquiries and promote the service.

**Project Administrator £17,169 35hrs/wk**

To support the setting up and running of the information service, manage the project budget and process subscriptions.

Both posts are funded by the National Lottery Charities Board for 3 years and require experienced, highly motivated individuals, preferably with close personal experience of disability and parenting.

DPPI is a small volunteer-led organisation and is being supported in this new project by the Maternity Alliance, a national charity which promotes the rights of all pregnant women and new parents. The project office will be at the Maternity Alliance, near the Barbican in London. For application pack (also available in LP, Braille or tape format), send large 39p SAE to DPPI 45 Beech St, 5th Floor, London EC2P 2LX. Closing date: 10 June 97. Interviews 19/23 June

### GLOUCESTERSHIRE YOUTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICE YOUTH AND COMMUNITY WORKER (DISABLED YOUNG PEOPLE)

JNC Level 3 (1-4)

An exciting youth work development opportunity!

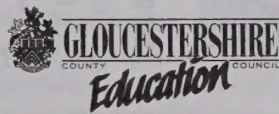
Gloucestershire is looking for a qualified and experienced youth and community worker to take responsibility for the promotion, co-ordination and development of the Service's youth work with disabled young people.

The successful candidate will have personal experience of disability and of youth work with disabled young people. S/he will have the skills to enable the active participation of disabled young people in the development and deployment of youth work resources. The postholder will also have the confidence to work with youth work teams to improve and develop further opportunities in the Service for disabled young people.

For application details telephone FARZANA BADAT on 01452 425420 or fax on 01452 426375.

For an informal discussion contact MIKE COUNSELL, Head of Service, on 01452 426391.

Closing date for applications: Friday 6 June 1997 We are working for equality in employment



THE

### NOTTINGHAM TRENT UNIVERSITY

#### DEPARTMENT OF ACADEMIC SUPPORT SERVICES STUDENT CARE SERVICES

Student Care Services is a section of the University's Department of Academic Support Services, providing a range of specialist support services for students.

Following a successful bid to the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), under its Special Initiative to Encourage High Quality Provision for Students with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities, the following post has been created:

### Disability Officer

£19,449 - £20,979 pa

(Fixed term contract to July 1999)

Required to cover the secondment of the Disability Service Coordinator to the Special Initiative Project. Reporting to the Service Coordinator, you will coordinate and provide support for students with disabilities and will jointly supervise a team of freelance specialist support workers (notetakers, readers, personal assistants). Duties will involve assessing the support requirements of prospective and current students with disabilities, arranging appropriate support and facilities, assisting students with applications for specialist grants, maintaining monitoring and student records/database systems and organising and delivering training and awareness activities.

You will have a degree or equivalent qualification and will have a relevant professional or academic qualification (eg in the fields of education, social work, occupational therapy, disability studies). Experience in teaching or training is necessary.

A thorough understanding of issues affecting access to higher education for students with disabilities is essential, as are good organisational and interpersonal skills and the ability to work collaboratively with organisations and individuals at a variety of levels.

Informal enquiries about the post should be directed to: Chris Baxter, Service Coordinator, Student Care Services, Tel: (0115) 9486163 (voice/minicom).

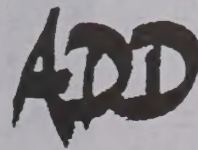
Further details and application forms are available from Personnel Services, The Nottingham Trent University, Burton Street, Nottingham NG1 4BU, by telephoning (0115) 9486522 (24 hour answering service).

Post Ref No: A0015/DN. Closing date: 11 June 1997. Interview date: 24 June 1997.

For all vacancies see our Internet page <http://www.ntu.ac.uk/personnel>

CVs will only be accepted when submitted with a fully completed application form.

We are actively implementing equality of opportunity policies and seek people who share our commitment.



### PROGRAMME CO-ORDINATOR / CONTRACTS OFFICER (£15,000 - £20,000 depending on experience)

ADD - Action on Disability and Development - supports the self-help initiatives of disabled people in their work for basic human rights and equal opportunities, working with organisations run by disabled people in developing countries. We are committed to equal opportunities, and are now seeking two new staff. Applicants with a personal experience of disability will have a particular advantage.

The jobs will cover three critical areas of responsibility:

- Management and support of a number of our programmes and partner relationships in Africa and Asia, including monitoring and evaluation. **Development skills essential; very good French strongly preferred.**
- Institutional fundraising, requiring experience of writing, presenting and negotiating detailed project proposals with the ODA, CEC and others. **Writing and numeracy skills essential.**
- Contracts management, including the negotiation of budgets and financial reports with both overseas offices and donors. **Financial and spreadsheet skills essential.**

As we hope to appoint just two people, all applicants should have outstanding strengths and experience in at least one of these areas, with an understanding of the other two. **Some overseas travel may be required.**

We offer fully accessible offices in a light and quiet working environment in the heart of Somerset.

For an application pack and further information contact ADD at 23 Lower Keyford, Frome, Somerset, BA11 4AP. Tel: (01373) 473064, Fax: (01373) 452075, Minicom: (01373) 463932, E-mail: [add@gn.apc.org](mailto:add@gn.apc.org).

Closing date for applications 4 June.

### TICKET SCHEME ASSISTANT

£14,151-£16,254 (including inner London weighting)

Shape Ticket Scheme is a specialised arts booking service which enables disabled and older people to make the most of London's arts venues by providing members with reduced price tickets, a volunteer escort service, access information and a free booking service.

We are seeking a full time assistant to assist with all aspects of running the office to enable us to expand the service. The postholder will be a disabled person who has a lively interest in the arts and a good working knowledge of office procedures. Good communication skills and initiative are also essential.

For more details about this post and an application form please contact:

Shape Recruitment (Ref: TSA)

LVSRC  
356 Holloway Road  
London N7 6PA

Closing date for applications: Friday 13 June

Shape London is a registered charity and all offices are fully accessible.



Disability Information & Advice Line  
Leeds Disability Help Line

**Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) Project - A new project for the Leeds Area to enable disabled people to challenge discrimination under the DDA -**

We are seeking a:

**Project Development Officer**

SO1 Pt 29 £17,055 (Pay award pending)

To lead and co-ordinate the Project, offer representation at Industrial Tribunals and County Court and provide a training consultancy service on the DDA.

**Information Officer**

Scale 6 Pt 26 £15,375 (Pay award pending)

To provide an information and advice service and organise publicity and awareness raising campaigns on the DDA.

**Both posts are 3 year fixed term contracts funded by the National Lottery Charities Board.**

For further information and an application form please contact:

**DIAL (Leeds), The Shadwell Centre, Shadwell Lane, Leeds LS17 8AG.**

We particularly welcome applications from disabled people. Information available in large print, Braille, on tape or disc on request.

**Closing date: 7th July 1997**



### WALTHAM FOREST COMMUNITY CARE TRUST

**Position: Administrator**

**Salary Scale: Scale 6 Point 26**

We are looking for a disabled person to be responsible for the efficient administration of the Trust, including financial payments to individual disabled people who are managing their own Care package.

We are looking for someone with experience of putting together accounts, experience of administration procedures and of providing financial advice. Essential qualities include Good listening skills and the ability to encourage and support disabled people who are managing their own care.

This is a permanent post for 18 hours, but a one year pilot project of an additional 18 hours is offered. Job Share available.

For an information pack, please call Denise Ryall on 0181 520 4111.

Closing date: 27.6.97

Interview date: 11.7.97

## Personal



**In a Crisis**

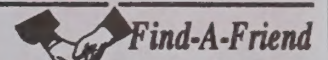
Whatever you're going through, we'll go through it with you. Please phone, visit or write

**The Samaritans**

**0345 90 90 90**

(Calls charged at local rate)

The Samaritans is a Registered Charity providing Confidential and Emotional Support. Charity No. 219432



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Overseas +44 + 1606 49093



**Dating Agency open to anyone whether disabled or able bodied.**

**Tel/Fax 01473 226950**

Lonely, bored and fed up?  
Why not give Handicate a try?

Handicate, The Wellington Centre,  
52 Chevellier Street, Ipswich,  
Suffolk IP1 2PB  
Member of ABIA

## Motor insurance

### The "Access" Policy

A unique contract specially designed for owners of vehicles converted to carry wheelchair passengers. Substantial premium savings - up to 30% possible.

**For a quote please contact**

**CHARD INSURANCE SERVICES (REGISTERED BROKERS), 15 HOLYROOD STREET, CHARD TA20 2AH. 01460 61373/62148**

## Services

### Manderley Consulting

Equal Opportunity Consultancy Services

**Do you**

Understand the Disability Discrimination Act 1995?  
Need affordable Disability Awareness Training?  
Need advice on Equal Opportunity issues?

**Manderley Consulting**

offers you services on all aspects of disability which are:  
Affordable  
Tailored to suit your needs.

62 Whitehill Road  
Gravesend  
Kent  
DA12 5PQ  
Tel/Fax: 01474 357006

## Volunteers

### VOLUNTEERS WANTED

to help run helpline for women experiencing domestic violence (Redditch-based). Full training and expenses provided. Contact Miriam on 01527 591248

**Redditch Women's Aid**

particularly welcomes applications from black and ethnic minority women, lesbians and women with disabilities.

*Disability Now* is not responsible for claims made in the advertisements it prints and all readers are advised to check claims with the advertisers before relying on them.



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All our chairs are available through our dealer network, who can offer you the right advice and help in deciding on a model, and give full after-sales support and back-up.

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At Scandinavian Mobility we design and manufacture top quality manual and powered wheelchairs at our factory in Corby.

Using our unique understanding of the mobility market, we have developed a superb range of vehicles for people with mobility problems. With such a wide range, we are sure to be able to provide the solution to your particular needs - it's simply a matter of choosing which of our chairs is right for you!

With something to suit every level of disability and every age, from youngsters to the young-at-heart,

Scandinavian Mobility can truly be said to offer the ultimate in style, comfort and portability!

Call now for our free colour brochure.



# Disability Now

£1.60 June 1997

The award winning newspaper for everyone with an interest in disability

## Labour let-down

Disabled people are upset that their former Shadow Minister's job has become part-time. See page 1.

Branching out: A wheelchair is tied up a tree at the Manchester Airport runway site so that Gary, who has a spinal disorder, can join other protesters. See page 1.



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and a  
barbecue

### SUMMER FASHION

Looking cool by the pool



### INCONTINENCE

Muscle in on a better sex life



**Jobs**  
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**Regulars**

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